NEW YORK POST

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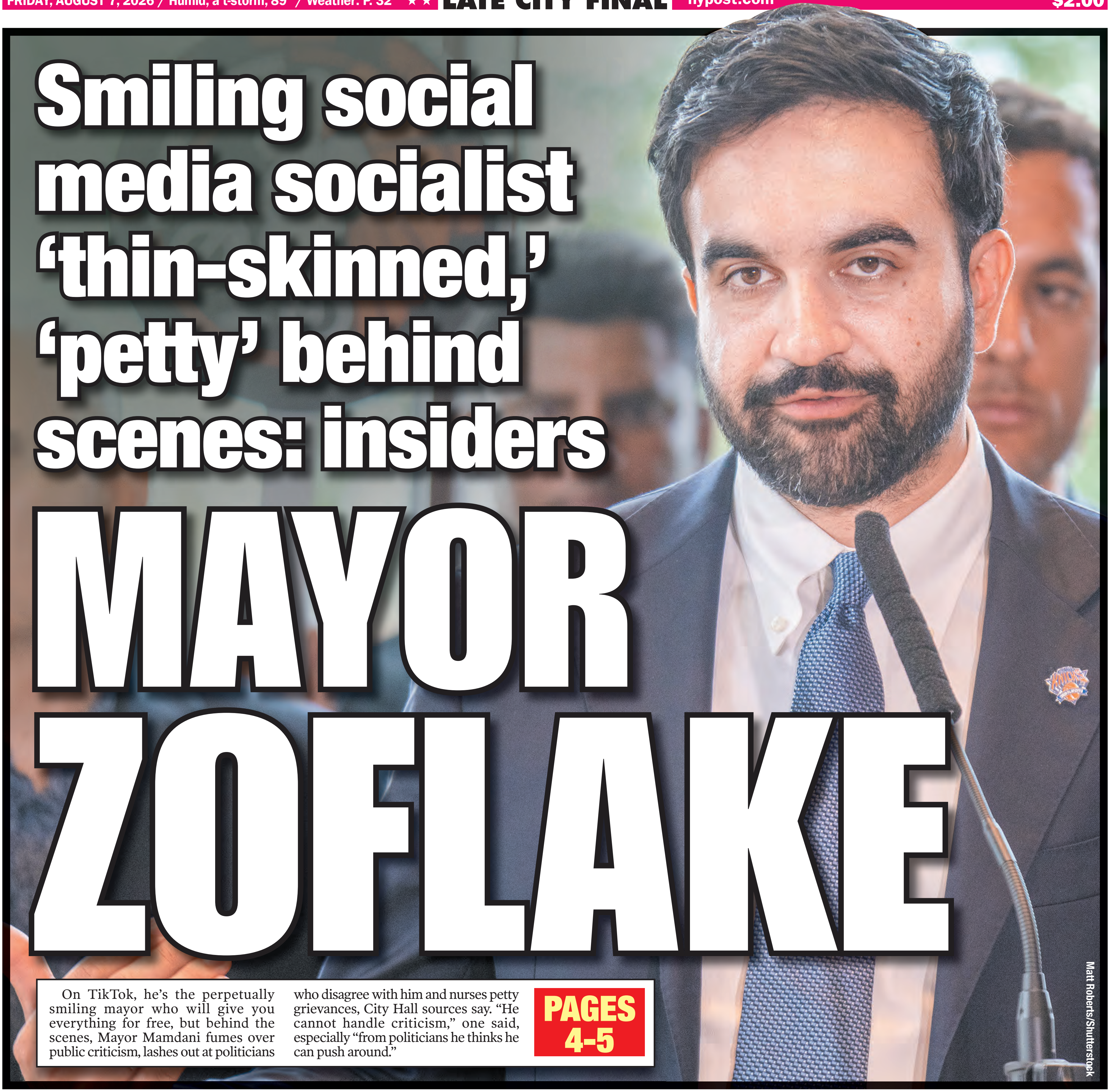

Smiling social media socialist 'thin-skinned,' 'petty' behind scenes: insiders

MAYOR ZOFLAKE

On TikTok, he's the perpetually smiling mayor who will give you everything for free, but behind the scenes, Mayor Mamdani fumes over public criticism, lashes out at politicians who disagree with him and nurses petty grievances, City Hall sources say. "He cannot handle criticism," one said, especially "from politicians he thinks he can push around."

PAGES 4-5

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‘Mad’ about her QB

Pop star Madison Beer’s million-dollar diamond sparkles for the cameras, as the “Make You Mine” singer hit Variety’s Power of Young Hollywood 2026 party this week in Beverly Hills, Calif. The 27-year-old songstress and her 28-year-old footballer-fiancé, Justin Herbert, announced their engagement last week, revealing the romantic detail that the Los Angeles Chargers quarterback popped the question at sunset in a grassy field.

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SKINNY GENE FOUND

Thin hereditary

By ALLIE YANG

Born thin? Slim chance.

While some people agonize over tracking every calorie to maintain their figures, others seem to have won the genetic lottery with a naturally speedy metabolism — and all the health benefits that come with it.

Now scientists have found a specific “skinny gene” mutation that’s keeping about one-in-7,000 people naturally svelte.

And if you’re thinking, “*Well, isn’t that just so nice for them?*” — this research could open the door to another kind of drug therapy that could one day reproduce the effects in the rest of us.

Gene plays role

Publishing in the journal Nature, researchers looked at genetic data from more than 1 million people across three continents to see if there were any mutations that influenced metabolism, or how our bodies convert food to energy.

They found our FNIP1 gene plays a role. We evolved this gene to slow down calorie burning when food is plentiful, storing it to survive food scarcity down the road.

When it’s turned off, it burns calories faster rather than storing them for use later. And people with this mutation have their FNIP1 genes turned off.

“Nowadays, we are living in a very calorie-rich environment, and historically there’s no precedent for this,” Dr, Luca Lotta, a senior author on the study, told Scientific American.

“These incredibly rare mutations, which might have been unfavorable for many millennia, are now favorable to the body.”

We get two copies of the gene — one from each parent — and about 150 people examined had one copy turned off.

These lucky few had lower weight, body fat and liver fat — and also developed more lean muscle.

Health benefits

There are some other serious health upsides, including lower cholesterol, with a drastically decreased risk for a slew of conditions.

These include heart attack, stroke, kidney disease and non-alcoholic fatty-liver disease.

Researchers in the study looked at mice to see if they could increase their metabolism by turning off a copy of FNIP1 — and found the mice avoided gaining weight and fat.

This shows some promise, though researchers note it’s unclear whether this is safe to try in humans at this point. Any therapy would be “many years away,” Lotta said.

Gene reprogramming has shown some promise for weight loss — but still only in mice.

GETTING UNDER

Behind scenes, Mamchild can't take criticism

By CRAIG McCARTHY
and MATT TROUTMAN

He's a real prima-dani.

Social media-savvy Mayor Mamdani is developing a reputation as "thin-skinned" and hypersensitive to public criticism, despite hyping himself online as a smiling and unflappable politician, scores of insiders spilled to The Post.

Behind the scenes, Hizzoner huffily badgers critics who dare question him publicly, harbors petty grudges against prominent pols and often responds to texts only when he's miffed about bad press, according to interviews with more than a dozen elected officials, consultants and other politicos.

"I see more and more he cannot handle criticism, but mainly from elected officials whom he thinks he can push around," one political consultant said.

"The mayor personally reaches out when electeds criticize him publicly. If they speak, then he cares. He cares because he doesn't want bad press. It shows a sensitivity."

The insiders who spoke with The Post about Mamdani asked to remain anonymous to avoid crossing a touchy mayor with whom they must deal over matters of governance and politics.

His reputed simmering irritation recently boiled over after city Jewish leaders called on him to "stop fanning the flames of hatred" against Israel in the wake of an alleged antisemitic stabbing attack on the Upper West Side.

Social media darling

Sources said the mayor personally called at least one elected official who attended the news conference, complaining about being told to tone down his rhetoric — and upset that their exhortation was connected to his video branding Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a "war criminal," which was posted days before the attack.

The controversial 2-minute clip, delivered direct-to-camera by a sober Mamdani sitting at a desk in front of the US and New York City flags, garnered an incredible 100 million views across social media platforms.

His mastery of social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram, where he now, respectively, has 3.5 million and 11.9 million followers, largely fueled Mamdani's meteoric rise during 2025 from little-known state lawmaker to the Big Apple's next mayor — and thus a standard-bearer for the nationally ascendant Democratic Socialists of America.

He bombarded New Yorkers' feeds with slick, entertaining videos in which he affably pressed his campaign's core message of affordability, such as when he highlighted "halalflation" at the city's street-food carts.

After taking office in January, Mamdani maintained his image-conscious ways by pouring $53 million into a new "Office of Mass Engagement," an expansion of his already massive communications team that critics argue is a propaganda organ for City Hall.

'Tough on staff'

He also regularly drops new videos, from an arguably ill-advised clip filmed outside billionaire hedge fund titan Ken Griffin's $200 million condo to hype the DSA "tax the rich" agenda, to a 13-minute documentary this week about tenants organizing against their do-nothing landlord.

Protecting the DSA movement's burgeoning political power appears to be the source of much Mamdani touchiness, insiders said.

Another Democratic operative said Mamdani is "tough on staff," often holding late-night meetings in Gracie Mansion with his DSA comrades.

"He's the first DSA [mayor] so they have to show he can manage the city, and any time someone puts a dent in that it hurts their cause," a government insider said.

But sources revealed Mamdani also obsesses over even the potential for bad media coverage, such as when Queens Borough President Donovan Richards in July slammed the DSA as "white supremacy" in an X post.

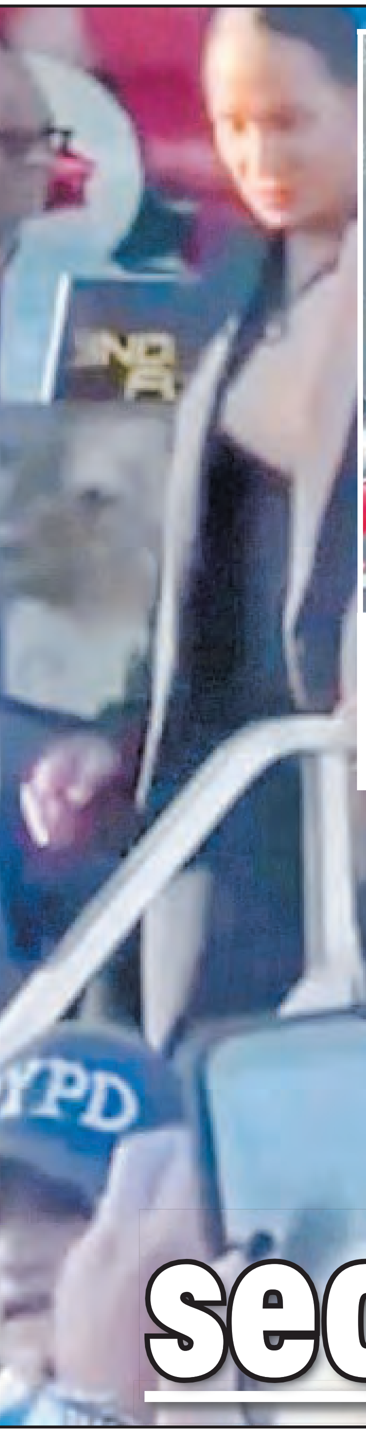
Sources said Mamdani tried to nip a negative story in the bud by having a staffer reach out to Richards' office to take down the post. Richards left the post up, leading to a Post story highlighting the rift between Mamdani's largely lily-white DSA comrades and minority lawmakers such as the borough president.

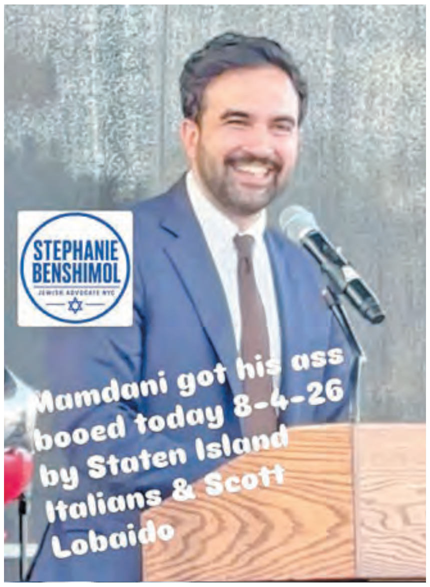
"He's so thin-skinned and reads everything," one City Council member said.

"His security blanket is his phone and the dopamine from how many likes he gets on a post," a Democratic operative scoffed. "Seems to keep him going."

Posts that irked Mamdani also included City Council member Virginia Maloney (D-Manhattan) rebutting the mayor's claim that a budget proposal by lawmakers cut services with a lashing, "I know math is hard."

HIZ THIN SKIN




STEPHANIE BENSHIMOL
JEWISH ADVOCATE NYC
Mamdani got his ass booed today 8-4-26 by Staten Island Italians & Scott Lobaido

HASTY EXIT: After Mayor Mamdani was booed off the stage at a Staten Island rally Tuesday, artist and activist Scott LoBaido tried to confront him but went into cardiac arrest. First responders came to his aid.

Gone in 60 seconds

By PATRICK REILLY
and ELLA MORRISON

They got the last laugh.

Mayor Mamdani lasted less than a minute at one of the Big Apple's pro-police celebrations on Staten Island Tuesday evening, battered by boos before he quickly exited the stage.

A smiling Hizzoner was forced to offer up some abbreviated remarks at the Midland Beach boardwalk for the NYPD's 43rd Patrol Borough National Night Out Against Crime where some 3,500 residents and families had gathered to celebrate, the Staten Island Advance reported.

Loud jeers and a tirade of profanities from attendees could be heard as the Democratic socialist made his way to the podium — with some shouting him down to leave, social media videos show.

The carefully polished Mamdani embarrassingly spoke for less than a minute, wishing Staten Islanders a "Happy Night Out Against Crime" before being whisked off to the side while flashing a wide grin.

Rabble-rousing Staten Island artist and activist Scott LoBaido suffered a cardiac arrest emergency after attempting to confront Mamdani.

LoBaido, who's been openly critical of Mamdani, tried to approach the mayor after his remarks but soon after voiced that he wasn't "feeling well" and collapsed on the ground, a witness said.

After receiving CPR from first responders, LoBaido began breathing again and was listed in critical but stable condition Tuesday night, a hospital spokesperson said.

Maloney's sarcastic post on X apparently drew Mamdani's ire and he reached out to her, sources said.

'Cold' if you cross him

"That Virginia Maloney tweet really got under their skin," a source said amid the spat.

He likewise reached out to elected officials who slammed him over a proposed nearly 10% property tax increase, insiders said.

As The Post reported, Mamdani fumed in silence as he was snubbed from eulogizing Army Sgt. Angel Sarah Rampersad at her funeral in Queens last Friday.

One Democratic insider said Mamdani treats those who cross him with a "cold demeanor," terse in responses and not his usual smiling self. That's in contrast to his usual smiley and affable public manner, even to foes like his unexpected texting bud President Trump and in the face of boos, like the ones he faced during an anti-crime event on Staten Island this week.

Multiple sources said they discovered one sure-fire way to get Mamdani and his team's attention — and a reply — will be negative news coverage or a critical social media post.

"They only respond when it's a crisis for them and reaches crisis levels in the press, but before that they don't return calls, texts or emails," a Democratic operative said.

Damage control

"He has been known to hold grudges against whoever challenges him or his positions for even some of the smallest of slights and those people get sent to the back of the line unless he needs something."

Some insiders did credit the youthful Mamdani, 34, for being engaged in backroom dealings and acknowledging his limits. The mayor carries himself with "humility," a union source said.

"He asks lots of questions. Seeks to understand the issues he's lacking familiarity with," the source said.

"He does more listening than talking. That's uncommon in the political realm."

Mamdani's senior spokeswoman Dora Pekec said in a statement: "The mayor's focus has and always will be how best to deliver for New Yorkers, and he sees our city and state elected officials as valuable partners in building a safer and more affordable city."

City Hall officials conducting damage control isn't new, but insiders said Mamdani is quickly showing himself to be even more sensitive to media coverage than his notoriously whiny groundhog-killing predecessor Bill de Blasio.

Mamdani should focus on the job, rather than a "first-term council member tweeting" about him, snarked Fabien Levy, former chief mouthpiece for previous Mayor Eric Adams.

"This administration is more on Twitter, Instagram or TikTok than probably any other politician in the county, but to steal an Eric Adams-ism: it's not what's in the tweets, it's what's in the streets," Levy said.

cmccarthy@nypost.com

ALI NAJMI
Bragged about mayoral access.

Ethics concern over Zo pal's ad

One of Mayor Mamdani's top aides — who helps select judicial nominees — bragged about his connections to Big Apple politicians in an ad for a Manhattan law firm, raising eyebrows among ethics experts, The Post can reveal.

Ali Najmi, a longtime ally of Hizzoner who chairs the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary, released the video, which features a picture with Mamdani, on social media to promote personal injury law firm Liakas Law, PC.

"We know how to get good results. We have a deep network that extends throughout the city of New York," Najmi says — as the camera pans over photos of Mamdani and City Council member Crystal Hudson.

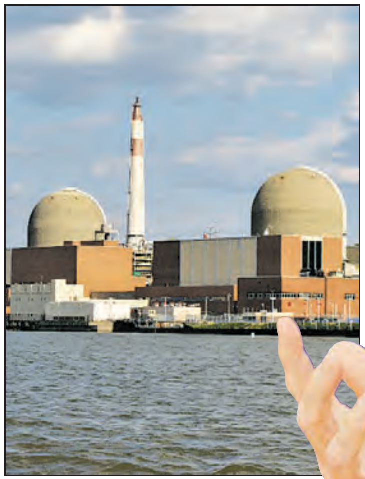
The clip, posted on Instagram in February, shows Najmi standing next to Mamdani at what appears to be a food distribution event and other members of the law firm posing with Hudson, a progressive Brooklyn Democrat.

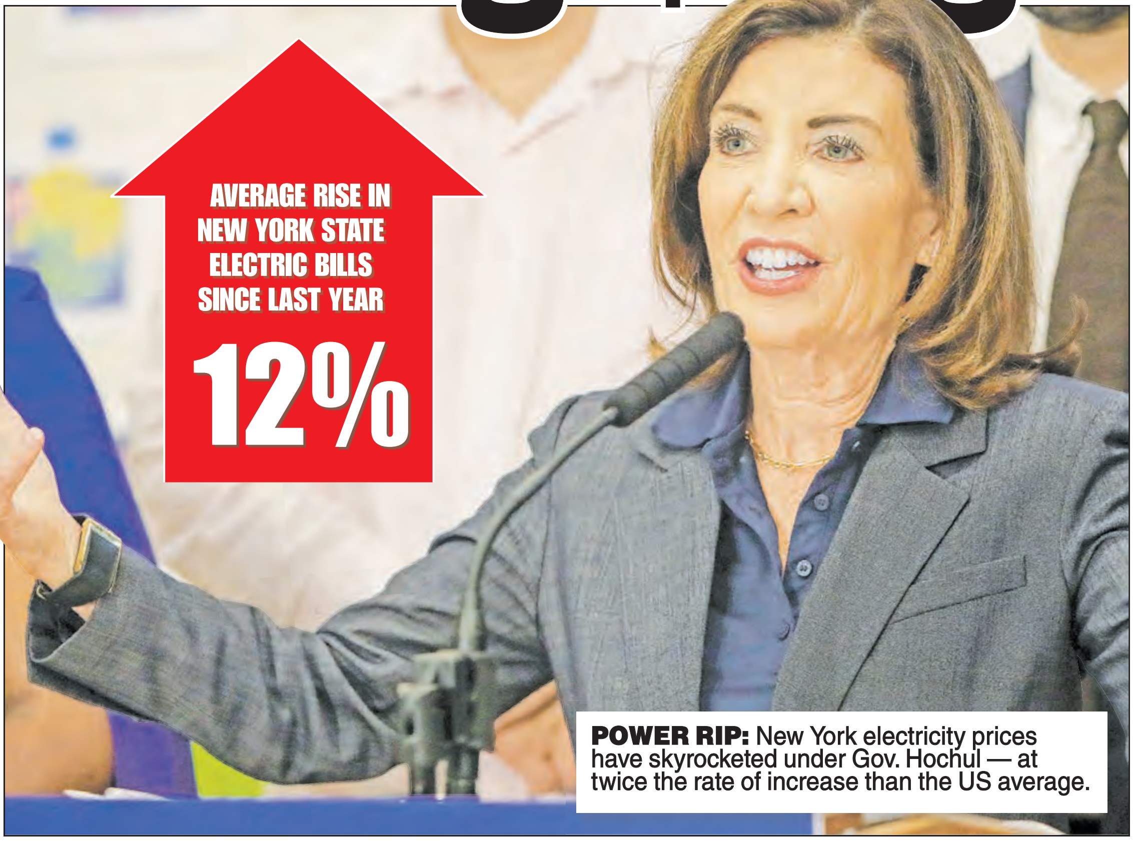
The video raised alarms among good-government experts, though they noted it may not constitute an outright violation of the city's conflict-of-interest code.

"Public servants, including those serving on boards and commissions, need to have bright lines between their public and private work, and should not be engaging in activities that make it appear that they are drumming up business based on their connections to government," Rachael Fauss, a senior policy adviser at Reinvent Albany, said after reviewing the video.

Matthew Fischetti

A shocking $urge




AVERAGE RISE IN NEW YORK STATE ELECTRIC BILLS SINCE LAST YEAR
12%

POWER RIP: New York electricity prices have skyrocketed under Gov. Hochul — at twice the rate of increase than the US average.

Andrew Schwartz / SplashNews.com

NY 3rd highest electric bills

By CARL CAMPANILE

Zap!

New Yorkers pay the third-highest residential electricity prices in the country — trailing only Hawaii and California, a shocking new report reveals.

Frustration over New York's sky-high energy costs has emerged as a top campaign issue in the governor's race pitting Republican Bruce Blakeman against Democratic incumbent Kathy Hochul.

"Third-highest in the nation is not where New York should want to be on electricity prices," said Zilvinas Silenas, president of the Empire Center for Public Policy.

"If this is affordability, New Yorkers cannot afford it."

New York's residential electricity prices were a whopping 29.93 cents per kilowatt-hour in May, based on the latest federal data, the analysis by the Albany-based think tank found.

Hawaii came in at 52 cents per kilowatt-hour, and California at 33.25 cents per kilowatt-hour, the common billing unit for electrical energy supplied by a utility.

New York's prices were 62% higher than the national average, nearly double Florida's and more than 80% higher than Texas.

Electricity prices in the Empire State also rose 12% from a year earlier — twice the rate of increase for the US average.

New York has jumped in the rankings — from eighth highest among states last October and November, to sixth highest in December to fourth in April and third in May, according to the Empire Center.

Bruce hits Kat on costs

Meanwhile, New York's average residential natural-gas prices were 15% above the national average. "New York's energy policy is contributing to the higher costs we have warned about for years," said Silenas, adding increased electricity demand is also a factor.

One energy expert said New York's high-tax burden significantly contributes to the higher costs.

"The New York City property tax is the big distortion on the Con Ed bill," said John Howard, a former member of the state Public Service Commission that regulates utilities.

Energy costs have emerged as a hot campaign issue in the governor's race, with Blakeman blaming Hochul's administration for approving 48 utility rate electric and gas hikes during her tenure, via the Public Service Commission. She appoints most of the PSC members who regulate the utility industry.

"Kathy Hochul's utility bills are killing us," Blakeman said.

"When I am governor, I will cut utility bills in half, repeal Hochul's costly surcharges, and return $2.4 billion in unspent energy tax funds directly to ratepayers," he vowed.

The Hochul campaign defended the governor's energy record.

"Gov. Hochul is putting energy rebate checks directly in New Yorkers' pockets and taking on the big utility companies to bring down costs, but if '100% MAGA' Blakeman had his way, New Yorkers would get stuck with higher bills, no energy rebates, no tariff refunds, and no help whatsoever while he and Trump jack up prices," said Hochul campaign spokesperson Ryan Radulovacki.

HOPE LIVINGSTON
Used funds for shop spree.

Pleads guilty to $14K LI PTA theft

A crooked Long Island PTA vice president admitted she stole more than $14,000 from the group and splurged at Lululemon and other stores, Suffolk County prosecutors said.

Hope Livingston, 50, pleaded guilty on Tuesday to grand larceny charges after soaking the Sag Harbor Elementary School Parent Teacher Association from July 2021 through June 2024, Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney said in a statement.

She's expected to be forced to pay back $14,500 in restitution.

"Stealing from a school's PTA is not just a crime, it is a betrayal of our children and community," Tierney said of Livingston, who also served as the PTA treasurer for a stretch.

"My office will continue to have zero tolerance for corruption," the DA added.

Livingston had access to the PTA's bank account through a debit card meant strictly for PTA-related purchases — but instead racked up thousands in personal purchases on Amazon and at stores like Target and Costco, according to officials. *Brandon Cruz*

INSIDE TODAY

News Columns

Kirsten Fleming 8-9
Isaac Schorr 15
Steve Cuozzo 23, 38
Rikki Schlott 29

Gossip

Page Six 20
Weather p. 32

Fun & Games

Horoscope 32
Su Doku 36
Crossword 36
Scrabble Grams 36
Post Opinion p. 33-35
Business p. 37-39
Classifieds p. 40
Sports p. 40-57
Post Action 41-45
Phil Mushnick 48
TV Decider p. 58-59

LOTTERY

NEW YORK

- Midday Nos. Thu.: **325**
- Midday Win-4 Thu.: **8391**
- Midday Take-5 Thu.: **5, 8, 16, 19, 24**
- Evening Nos. Thu.: **408**
- Evening Win-4 Thu.: **6148**
- Evening Take-5 Thu.: **7, 26, 31, 37, 38**
- Pick-10 Thu.: **3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 20, 24, 25, 30, 35, 37, 48, 58, 63, 65, 69, 73, 74, 79, 80**
- Millionaire for Life Thu.: **7, 20, 42, 48, 51**; MB: **3**

NEW JERSEY

- Pick-3 Thu.: **261;** Fireball: **1**
- Pick-4 Thu.: **2404;** Fireball: **1**
- Cash-5 Xtra Thu.: **5, 20, 33, 36, 44;** Xtra: **x5**
- Pick-6 Thu.: **7, 12, 24, 33, 34, 46**; DP: **4, 10, 23, 29, 41, 44**

CONNECTICUT

- Play-3 Thu.: **223;** Wild: **3**
- Play-4 Thu.: **9924;** Wild: **4**
- Cash-5 Thu.: **8, 10, 13, 19, 28**

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76

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KNICKING IT TO CHANEL

Humble NYK hat dethrones luxe company

By FARAN KRENTCIL

Karl-Anthony Towns just dunked on Coco Chanel.

A new report from the fashion data platform Lyst found that the hottest accessory in the world is currently a New York Knicks baseball cap from New Era, the Buffalo-based company that makes best-selling gameday merch.

The findings put the Knicks above hardcore luxury labels including Chanel and Gucci, along with Kim Kardashian's bombshell intimates brand, Skims.

Lyst saw searches for the humble New York Knicks baseball hat "rise a phenomenal 4,276%" since March, according to the London-based company, which analyzes the online shopping habits of over 160 million shoppers in the luxury space.

It likely helps that Chanel's most in-demand item, according to the firm, is a pair of Y2K-style sunglasses with tiny Double C logos on the sides, which cost about $950 per pair. The hat is just $40, though it sells out so quickly that some online resellers are gouging shoppers with a $400 markup.

The move comes as the Knicks bask in their first NBA championship since 1973, leading to a revival of cool team merch from indie New York brands like Batsheva and Irene Chung, along with a new series of New York Post hoodies and tops.

Caps aren't the only Knicks items breaking data records. According to Google Trends, demand for "Knicks tees" surged over 5000% since this time last year. Searches for a "Knicks bag" are also up 800%, while searches for a "Chanel bag" shot up a more modest 90%.

Chanel still OK!

But don't shed any crocodile embossed leather tears for the très chic French label just yet.

Although Chanel was edged out of Lyst's "most popular item" bracket, the exclusive 116-year-old brand scored Lyst's "top brand" spot. Meanwhile, Chanel's earnings jumped 16% from last year, owing mostly to jewelry and watches, along with a boost by new designer Matthieu Blazy, who began his tenure to rave reviews in 2025. Celebrity faces like movie heartthrob Jacob Elordi and pop starlet Gracie Abrams also helped.

NEW YORK
KNICKS
25-26
CHAMPIONS

CHAMPIONSHIP CHIC: Celebs like Kendall (right) and Kylie Jenner rocked Knicks gear this spring, as the team's championship run made the hat a must-have.

kyliejenner/Instagram; NBA Store

Steamy and stormy in Apple

Welcome to the concrete jungle.

Hot, humid weather and intense thunderstorms will make New York City feel like a Caribbean island through the end of the week — prompting the city to activate its emergency plan.

A heat advisory is in effect across the five boroughs until 8 p.m. on Saturday, with extremely high humidity expected to push real-feel temperatures above 100 degrees, according to forecasters.

"Humidity today was about as high as it ever gets around here. It was very tropical. The humidity levels were similar to what we see in the Caribbean," senior AccuWeather meteorologist Brian Thompson told The Post on Thursday.

"The daytime highs for the next several days we expect to be pretty close to 90 degrees. The big issue this time is definitely the humidity," Thompson said.

The suffocating moisture in the air will create the perfect conditions for scattered heavy downpours and thunderstorms to slam the Big Apple late Friday.

Zoe Hussain

Subway-track shove

A lunatic shoved a man onto the subway tracks in Harlem after an argument on Tuesday night — and days later police were still hunting for the suspect.

The violent encounter began when the brute (inset) started beefing with the victim on the platform of the 125th Street station shortly before 9 p.m., police said Thursday.

The suspect pushed the man to the tracks and fled on a southbound 3 train.

It's unclear what sparked the incident. The victim sustained minor injuries.

Daniel Cody

‘Schu’ in for pol…kinda

Tepid El-Sayed support

NO CHOICE: Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer released a statement vaguely endorsing Dr. Abdul El-Sayed (above) for Senate.

By ALLY GOELZ and RYAN KING

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer gave Michigan Senate hopeful Dr. Abdul El-Sayed a tepid endorsement not long after the former public health official called for Schumer’s ouster,

During his anti-establishment campaign, El-Sayed took swipes at Schumer (D-NY), whom he wants replaced as Democratic leader. Schumer returned the favor by preferring El-Sayed’s foe Rep. Haley Stevens (D-Mich.), who lost by a 1% margin Tuesday.

“Look, at the end of the day, the current minority leader has given all of us ample reason to question whether or not he would be our best bet heading into a cycle where we might have the majority, and I think there’s absolutely room for change,” El-Sayed told The Post over the weekend.

El Sayed endorsed Sen. Chris Van Hollen (Md.) for Schumer’s job, saying he’d be “an amazing majority leader” instead of Schumer.

“Chris Van Hollen would be perfect,” he told The Post.

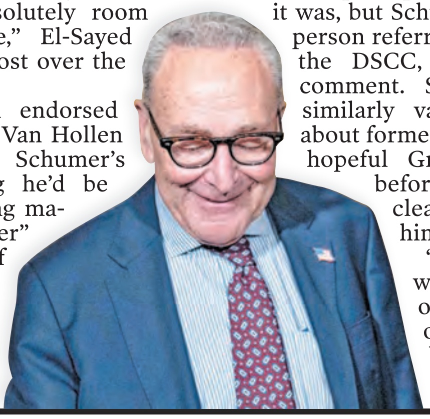
Any hope of Democrats retaking the Senate majority runs through Michigan — and now getting El-Sayed elected in November. The Democratic establishment is forced to coalesce around El-Sayed, who wants Medicare for All, ICE abolished and Israel defunded.

‘Just wants to win’

Schumer (inset) and Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Chairwoman Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) released a joint statement saying that they look “forward to working with Abdul and Democrats across Michigan to win this seat in November.”

The vague language appeared to be an endorsement. Gillibrand’s spokesperson confirmed it was, but Schumer’s spokesperson referred The Post to the DSCC, which didn’t comment. Schumer used similarly vague language about former Maine Senate hopeful Graham Platner before making it clear he backed him.

“Schumer just wants to win,” one Democratic operative bluntly told The Post.



USA TODAY Network via Reuters Connect; MediaPunch / BACKGRID

Roast this

KIRSTEN FLEMING

FRANCESCA Hong is running to be the next governor of Wisconsin, but she can’t decide if she wants to be the Grinch who stole Thanksgiving, too.

Thanksgiving? We’re talking about Thanksgiving in August?

That’s because the Democratic primary frontrunner and DSA darling is embroiled in a turkey tempest of her own making.

In 2020 she tweeted that we should stick a carving knife in the national holiday of gratitude because it was “celebrating colonialism.”

Earlier this week, Hong — who owned a restaurant before she was elected to the state assembly — was asked on CNN about her 6-year-old tweet.

She served up a mealy-mouthed answer, saying the holiday is “incredibly painful for many people in our communities.”

How miserable.

Then by Wednesday, the socialist lunatic did a U-turn so hard, it left tire marks on the road.

In an interview with Politico, she proclaimed, “My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving … I don’t want to cancel it. I actually love it.”

All she was missing was a pilgrim hat made of construction paper.

Dems ‘may be cooked’

Hong knew she had to run back her bizarre take.

Even establishment Democrats like David Axelrod mocked her on X, writing, “It’s answers like these that cause many to think if this chef wins the gubernatorial primary in WI, Ds may be cooked.”

Indeed, it was as absurd and preposterous as her original, now-deleted tweet that set all this off.

“Cancel Thanksgiving,” she wrote. “Should have done this in 1621. If it takes a worldwide pandemic for us to realize we should stop celebrating colonialism and the original super-spreader event that killed Indigenous folx and women so be it.”

The social-media post was a perfect fossil from the peak woke era, complete with its insane gender-neutral spelling of “folks.”

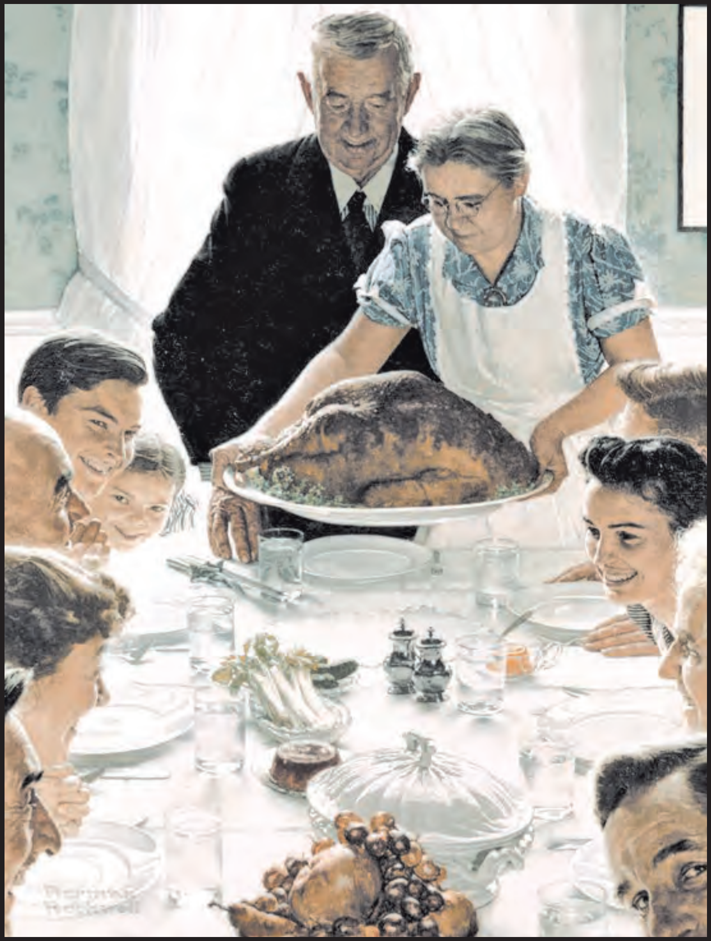
Except her anti-American views aren’t buried deep in the ground with a bunch of other bones.

They’re ready to surface with a good hard rain — or a win at the ballot box.

They were reflected in her CNN interview, where she invoked her old kitchen job in an attempt to make her Thanksgiving slander more palatable.

“I’m a chef, and one of the first meals that I made that was for the community when I was 16 was a Thanksgiving meal,” she said, adding that her “hospitality background” is a “good thing.”

However, “Thanksgiving is also a time that’s incredibly painful for many people in our communities … I think my background as a chef will actually help me become a better



‘THANKS’ FOR NOTHING: Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate Francesca Hong (opposite page) once tweeted that Thanksgiving (like the Norman Rockwell scene above) should be canceled. But now the radical says she “loves” the celebration.

leftist turkey

Voters must cancel lunatic

AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh; ©1943 SEPS: Licensed by Curtis Publishing, Indianapolis, IN / Norman Rockwell Museum Collection

governor that's able to bring more people to the table."

Sadly for the people of Wisconsin, it's a table she clearly wants empty on the last Thursday of November. I can assume that also means no football and no precious family gatherings.

It's fitting. The DSA wants to strip our society, government and culture down to its studs, so they can build their own socialist utopia.

It's not just Turkey Day.

In 2020 she also went after cops, writing on social media that "police exist to uphold white supremacy" and "I support defunding the police as a first step towards abolishing the police."

And now she claims, "My views have only become stronger in that I'm serious about public safety and I will not abolish the police."

Sure.

Not 'evolving'

If someone is so radicalized they want to ban American holidays and abolish the police, they don't evolve. They attempt to change the conversation because their illiberal views don't hold up in the light of day. And certainly not in 2026.

When it comes to disavowing old absurd tweets, she can follow Zohran Mamdani's lead. He regularly mocked and smeared cops on social media while calling to defund them, but he managed it more deftly.

He is simply far more skilled as a politician, therefore able to sweep his radicalism into the dustbin with his smug smile and theater-kid overconfidence.

Hong doesn't have his political chops, so she's stumbling while trying to clean up this mess

These surging DSA candidates can pretend they are just looking to make things affordable for the working class.

But last week, their party co-chair, Megan Romer, appeared on Fox News and explicitly laid out the party platform. They want to abolish borders, prisons and the Senate.

Thanksgiving? That's nothing.

Debate heat for embattled Fla. rep.

Rep. Cory Mills faced a barrage of attacks Wednesday at the Republican primary debate for Florida's 7th Congressional District, where his rivals pressed him on allegations of "stolen valor," a Justice Department probe and even that he converted to Islam.

Mills, who is currently being investigated by the House Ethics Committee over "serious and complex" accusations, including domestic assault, was defiant throughout the debate and vehemently denied the allegations, which his opponents argued could put Democrats in position to win in November.

"This isn't personal for me. I'm in it so we don't lose this seat," Ryan Elijah, a former Orlando news anchor who is now running for Mills' seat, told voters at the forum hosted by The Floridian.

Elijah touted the 20 endorsements he's racked up in the last month from people — including GOP Florida Reps. Anna Paulina Luna and Mike Haridopolos — who have "lost trust and confidence" in Mills.

Elijah made several references to Mills reportedly being under investigation by the Justice Department.

Another hopeful, Army veteran and longtime Department of Defense official Michael Don Johnson, hammered Mills on his own service record.

Mills denied embellishing his military service.

"When it comes to stolen valor, go look at my [Official Military Personnel File]. Go look at my [active duty discharge paperwork] from 2004, which shows my Bronze Star there and then shows it again in 2024," he responded.

Sarah Ulrich, a self-described political outsider challenging Mills, pressed the congressman on allegations he married his ex-wife, an Iraq War refugee, in a mosque and converted to Islam.

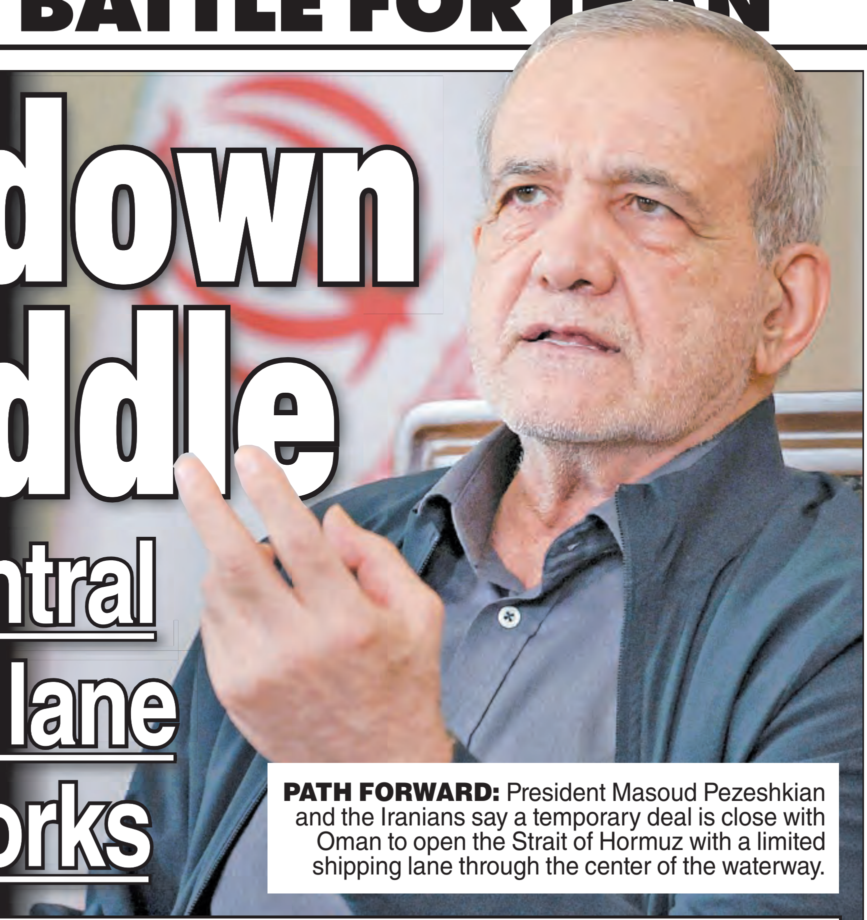
"We were actually married at the Fairfax [Va.] courthouse," the congressman responded.

Mills closed by noting he's been endorsed by President Trump in the Aug. 18 primary and hasn't been found guilty "of anything."

Victor Nava

Strait down the middle

1 central ship lane in works



PATH FORWARD: President Masoud Pezeshkian and the Iranians say a temporary deal is close with Oman to open the Strait of Hormuz with a limited shipping lane through the center of the waterway.

Iranian Presidency via ZUMA Press

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

WASHINGTON — Iran claims a new deal with neighboring Oman could partially reopen the Strait of Hormuz — but the proposed arrangement would only create a temporary, limited corridor while leaving Tehran with significant control over the world's most important oil chokepoint.

Iranian state media said Thursday that Tehran is "in the final stages" of confirming a temporary shipping arrangement with Oman that would create a limited new shipping lane through the center of the strait — after President Trump this week ordered the waterway reopened.

No tolls!

Under the proposal, commercial ships would no longer use the existing traffic lanes running along Iran and Oman's coastlines. Instead, vessels would be routed through a narrow central corridor jointly managed by Iran and Oman — giving Tehran a role in controlling traffic through the strategic waterway.

The US-backed route along Oman's coastline has been opposed by Tehran and has been targeted in previous attacks blamed on Iran-backed forces.

The traffic would pass through the central corridor without fees for two to four months while Tehran and Muscat negotiate a longer-term agreement — including whether Iran can impose transit charges on vessels using the waterway, according to Iranian media.

"Any temporary routes will be without any impediments — meaning no approvals or permissions and no tolls or charges," a US official told The Post on Thursday. "The Strait of Hormuz is an international waterway and no party controls the lanes or the ability to transit through them."

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi told the state-owned IRNA news agency on Thursday the new arrangement would give Tehran more control over the strait.

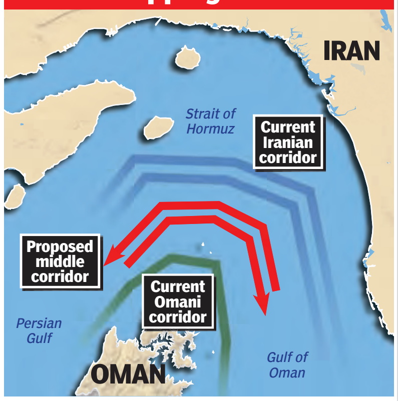
"This understanding ... represents a new model distinct from the practice of the past 60 years, under which a significant portion of the shipping route will pass through Iran's territorial waters," he said.

However, the path would still require de-mining before ships could safely use it, raising questions about how quickly the corridor could actually become operational.

President Trump on Thursday said a deal to reopen the strait "could be [coming] soon," stating he was involved in the talks despite Iranian officials publicly denying that Washington and Tehran are negotiating directly.

cdoornbos@nypost.com

Middle Shipping Lane



Gulf allies warned

Iran has made a strategic diplomatic push by warning Gulf states that any new US military action against Tehran could trigger counterattacks on their oil, power and water plants — turning the region "into a fireball."

The warning is meant to prompt Washington's closest Arab allies to urge President Trump to end strikes on Iran and negotiate an end to the war, a senior Iranian official told Reuters.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi made the warning to his Saudi, Turkish, and Qatari counterparts, as well as to Pakistan's army chief, unidentified sources told the outlet.

Araqchi insisted the US's Gulf allies dissuade Trump from launching renewed strikes on Iran — threatening prompt retaliation on US assets and critical infrastructure, such as energy facilities, oil fields, refineries, electricity grids, and water infrastructure.

The notice went through top diplomats after Trump threatened to launch attacks on Iran's energy network and infrastructure on July 28.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman subsequently spoke to Trump, pleading with the president to hold back from further military action, return to negotiations, and secure a cease-fire in the war that has wreaked havoc across the Middle East since late February.

Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia have all urged the US to resume talks with Tehran.

Zoe Hussain, With Wires

Desperate Iranians stealing

Iranians are reportedly stealing groceries and basic necessities to survive — prompting experts to predict the embattled nation could be approaching an economic breakdown.

The reports come as grocery prices in Iran have skyrocketed since war broke out with the US in February, with bread up 140%, dairy up 116.8% and food and drink prices overall up 113.8%, according to the Statistical Center of Iran.

It's exactly the kind of on-the-ground crisis experts suspect could spark a society-crumbling crisis in Iran.

"These are anecdotal, but they align with hard data," Foundation for Defense of Democracies associate fellow Miad Maleki told Fox News of the theft reports. "Iran is already inside the tipping zone."

The reports of theft came from local newspaper Jahan-e Sanat, which spoke to grocery store workers who described seeing an uptick in shoplifting at their stores in the last 10 months.

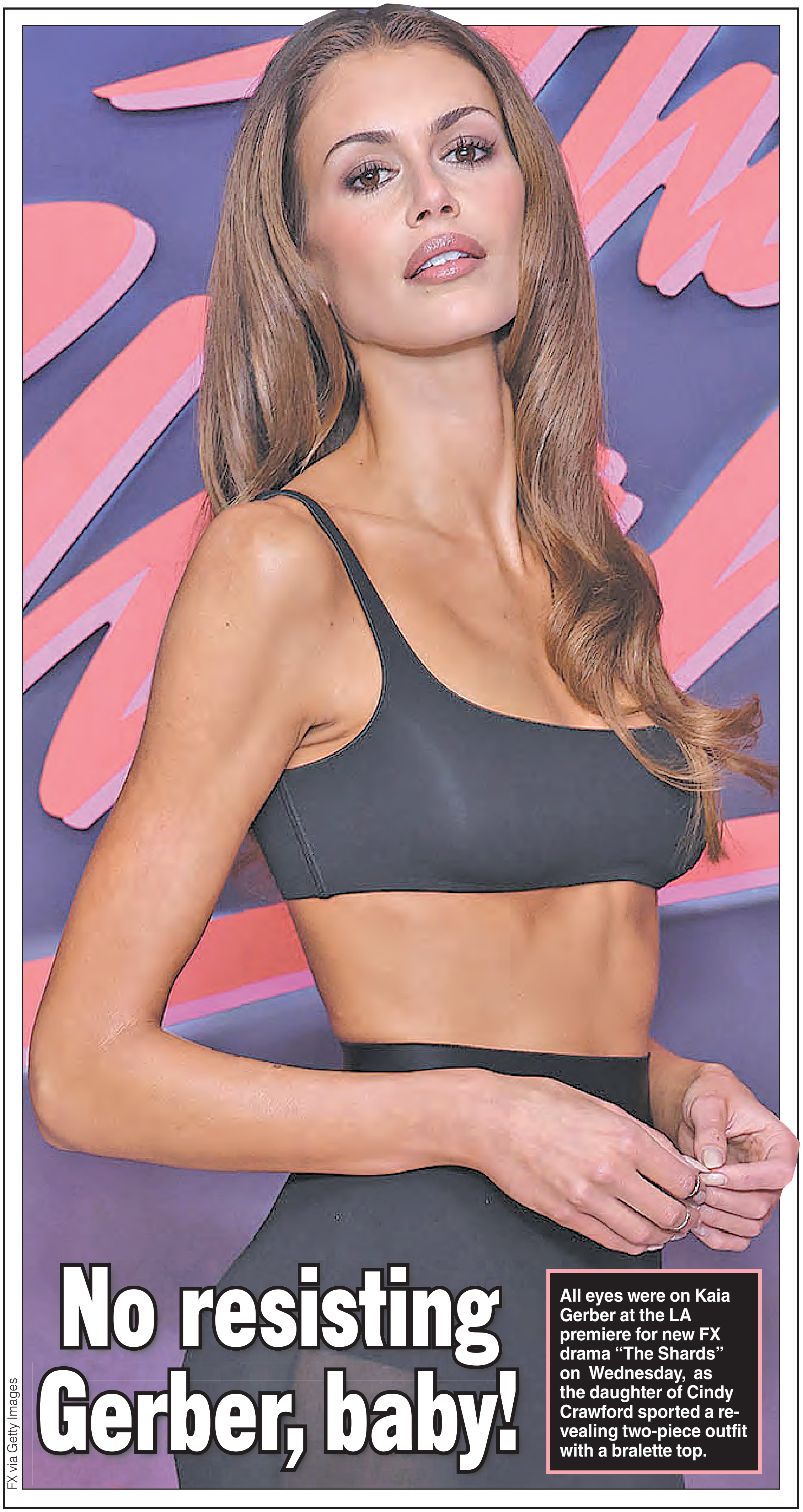
Customers have been increasingly stealing staples like meat, cheese, butter and breads. *Alex Oliveira*

We've got ammo: Don

WASHINGTON — President Trump was adamant Thursday that the US has "massive amounts" of munitions and vowed to hunt down leakers who are anonymously sounding alarms about America's stash of firepower.

The president's condemnation followed a Washington Post report that he lashed out at War Secretary Pete Hegseth during a Camp David cabinet meeting last week, claiming he had been misled about the state of America's arms stockpile.

According to the outlet, Trump complained that the shortages are one of the reasons he hasn't ordered new strikes against Iran. The president has publicly attributed operational delays in progress in talks with Tehran. *Ryan King*



No resisting Gerber, baby!

All eyes were on Kaia Gerber at the LA premiere for new FX drama "The Shards" on Wednesday, as the daughter of Cindy Crawford sported a revealing two-piece outfit with a bralette top.

FX via Getty Images

GENDER SWING AT WORK

More gals than men

By ALEX OLIVEIRA

Who runs the world?

Women hold more jobs than men in the US for the third time in history — and experts say the disparity could be here to stay as seismic employment shifts take hold in America.

The fairer sex held 79.64 million jobs as of June 2026, compared to the 79.34 million jobs held by men at the time — a difference of about 304,000, according to a fascinating survey conducted by the Indeed Hiring Lab.

That disparity has been growing sharply in recent months — in Feb. 2026, women held 96,000 more jobs than men, meaning the disparity grew by a whopping 208,000 jobs across four months this year alone.

And in the last 12 months, about 95% added positions went to women, as did two-thirds — 814,000 — of the 1.2 million added from Feb. 2024 to Feb. 2026, according to Indeed.

The percentages of men in the labor market have also dipped, with just 66.8% of men employed or actively seeking a job — down from 75.1% in 2000. Women in the labor market hit 56.6% as of June, but dropped from just 60.1% since 2000.

"This gap in male-female labor force participation rates [has] steadily declined over time," said Indeed Director of Economic Research Laura Ullrich, who wrote the study. "As more women have worked, less men have worked."

It's a titanic shift from historical trends in the US, where just 60 years ago there were 24 million more men in the workforce than women. That number has been declining steadily since, but by the 1990s, men still held about 7 million more jobs than women and even by 2005, they held around 5 million more.

Women held more jobs than men just twice before, the first after 2008 when male-dominated workplaces were gutted by the Great Recession until historical norms returned. The second came before the 2020 pandemic but was inverted again when lockdowns hit working women harder than men.

Varied reasons

The current apparent trend led Ullrich to predict it could be here to stay.

"I think we've just returned back to what it would have been if COVID never happened," she told The Post. "I actually think this switch to a level that is permanent was coming before COVID."

Exactly what is driving the trend is manifold, but increases in healthcare, education and hospitality jobs — industries dominated by women — compared to shrinking jobs in the male-dominated tech, business, and manufacturing worlds appear to be playing a sizable role, Ullrich said.

Changes in gender norms, however, do not appear to be playing a meaningful role.

"The research does not show that men are caregiving at higher levels," Ullrich said.

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Robo rabbits take bite out of snakes

A water management district in Florida's Everglades is using robot rabbits to help monitor and eventually eliminate its ever-growing population of invasive Burmese pythons that have wreaked havoc on native animals.

The solar-powered robot bunnies are equipped with a camera that alerts officials with the South Florida Water Management District when they spot a python. From there, someone will be dispatched to remove the snake, according to a news release.

Caitlin McCormack

WireImage

$2M to LA aid chief in Hawaii

Doesn't 'remotely' make sense

By ZAIN KHAN

A Los Angeles homeless nonprofit CEO earned more than $1.6 million in salary, bonuses and vacation payouts — despite living thousands of miles away in Hawaii.

Carol Adelkoff, from 1736 Family Crisis Center, was the highest-paid homeless-group executive in Los Angeles after earning the whopping figure over the last two years.

She collected $907,923 in 2023 and another $742,181 in 2024, compensation that dwarfed the pay of leaders running much larger homeless service organizations across LA County, the LA Times reports.

The nonprofit, which operates domestic violence shelters, crisis hotlines and homeless programs across LA and Orange counties, brings in about $15 million a year, with roughly 94% of its revenue coming from taxpayer-funded government grants, according to its latest tax filings.

Adelkoff defended the massive payouts, claiming they were largely the result of cashing out decades of unused vacation time rather than a dramatic salary increase.

"The salary didn't jump like that," Adelkoff said.

She said her base salary has remained about $405,000 for several years and that roughly $824,000 of the money paid over the two-year span represented accumulated vacation dating back decades.

The next-best-paid employee, the finance director, made $206,000.

"It was simply a matter of reducing accrued vacation liability on the books and paying it out," Adelkoff said.

Vacation pay

The nonprofit's attorney, Kerry Garvis Wright, said the board worked with legal and financial advisers to reduce the growing vacation liability before Adelkoff's eventual retirement.

Wright said the executive had accumulated the leave because the demands of leading the organization made it difficult for her to take time off over her 40-year tenure.

Still, nonprofit governance experts questioned both the payout and the oversight behind it.

"The bigger question is, was it appropriate for a person to be able to accrue that much money and suddenly get it paid out?" said Brian Mittendorf, an Ohio State University expert in nonprofit accounting.

Laurie Styron, CEO of nonprofit watchdog CharityWatch, called the payout "highly unusual." "How was this decision made?" she asked.

Experts also noted that while California employers cannot force workers to forfeit unused vacation, most nonprofits cap how much paid time off employees can bank.

LA LA LAND: LA's highest-paid homeless nonprofit CEO Carol Adelkoff lives in Hawaii, far from the city's homeless (above). She said the recent big payouts were for decades of unused vacation.

The Times reported 1736 Family Crisis Center capped vacation accrual for other employees — but not for Adelkoff. The executive has also been living far from the nonprofit's headquarters.

Adelkoff has listed the Big Island of Hawaii as her primary residence for more than a decade, according to the outlet.

Property records show she owns a 3,700-square-foot, four-bedroom home, and court records include testimony from her daughter that she was raised in Hawaii and that her mother lives there "year-round."

Monitor from afar

Adelkoff declined to confirm where she lives, telling the newspaper that revealing her location could pose a security risk because the nonprofit serves victims fleeing abusive situations. She also did not answer questions about how often she travels to Southern California for work or who pays for those trips.

Other nonprofit leaders told The Times that while some executive duties can be handled remotely, regularly visiting shelters and meeting with staff, donors and clients is a key part of running community-based organizations.

"I'm sure that that's an operational challenge," Mittendorf said.

"My big question would be, does it create more of a financial burden on the organization?"

The nonprofit said Adelkoff works an average of 70 hours a week and that her pay has returned to its historical level now that the vacation payouts have been completed.

NYC alert on W. Nile skeeters

Un-bite-lievable.

The dangerous West Nile virus has alarmingly been detected in nearly twice as many Big Apple mosquito samples this summer compared to last year — but there have been no reported positive cases in New Yorkers this season, city health officials announced.

As of July 25, 612 pools of mosquitoes — out of more than 2,000 groups sampled across the five boroughs — tested positive for West Nile, nearly double what was reported this time last year, according to the Health Department.

As a result, mosquito surveillance has ramped up across affected areas by deploying additional traps and expanding mosquito control, officials say.

Four targeted mosquito control operations have been completed since July, which reduced adult skeeter populations by 70% and decreased West Nile-infested pools by more than 85%.

"The detection of West Nile virus in mosquitoes demonstrates that New York City's mosquito surveillance system is working exactly as intended," Health Commissioner Dr. Alister F. Martin said in a press release Thursday.

All five boroughs have been plagued by the blood-suckers, but Staten Island and Queens appear to have been hit the hardest.

In the most severe cases, West Nile can cause severe neurologic illness including encephalitis or meningitis. *Ella Morrison*

'Vigilante dad' faces 18 yrs.

The Ohio dad who used TikTok to lure his 11-year-old daughter's alleged rapist to his house, then shot him twice, could face up to 18 years behind bars — because he's a felon who isn't allowed to possess a gun, The Post has learned.

Malik Chandler, 31, was charged with felony assault and using a weapon "under disability" after allegedly shooting 20-year-old Diego Montoya Gonzalez at his Grove City home last month, court records show.

The "under disability" specification — which carries extra prison time — was tacked onto the charges because Chandler was banned from ever carrying a firearm in Ohio following a conviction for felony burglary while he was a minor in 2010, said the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. *Georgia Worrell*

COULIBALY
"Conned" pro athletes.

NFLers' 'hustler' dead in NJ pool

Authorities are investigating the death of Mohamed Coulibaly, who has allegedly scammed many former NFL players with a fake e-commerce scheme, ABC News reported Thursday.

The 24-year-old was found dead in a swimming pool on Friday in Harrison Township, NJ. Police were contacted over concerns of his well-being and went over to the home for a welfare check.

The death follows a Barron's investigation published July 15 that named Coulibaly as the leader of a scam to get professional athletes to buy stakes in fake Shopify stores.

Former Giants linebacker Tae Crowder was an alleged victim of Coulibaly's after connecting with him through a friend.

Additionally, three former NFL players admitted they collectively lost over $1 million in investments made through the Philadelphia native.

Eagles stars Nakobe Dean and Jalen Carter, the Raiders' Terrell Edmunds, rapper YG and US men's soccer national team defender Mark McKenzie were among clients listed as well.

The former pros would invest into the e-commerce stores after having seen the promising sales logs, but Barron's found those transactions were "manually input" by someone with access to the backend of the shops.

Crowder, who was drafted by the Giants in the seventh round in 2020 and played with Big Blue through the 2022 season, threw all of his savings — $500,000 — into one of the fake web stores.

Bridget Reilly

LIVER-EVER AFTER

Facebook/Brooklyn.Dotson

KNOT BAD: Brooklyn Dotson is marrying Noah Waters 20 years after receiving a transplant from her fiancé's bro Michael (right), who died in a traffic accident.

Organ donor's brother to marry recipient 20 yrs. later

By RICHARD POLLINA

A Kentucky bride-to-be is tying the knot with the brother of the boy who saved her life 20 years ago when he donated his liver in a "life-saving" transplant.

Brooklyn Dotson was a toddler when she received a liver transplant from fiancé Noah's late brother, Michael, "and their lives were connected from that moment," according to the couple's wedding website.

In 2003, Dotson and her family learned she was diagnosed with a rare liver condition and would only have three days to live.

"They told my mom to go ahead and call the funeral home and make my arrangements," Dotson, now 24, told TV station Lex 18.

She said her mother refused to give up, and after a donor liver was found, Dotson underwent the lifesaving transplant surgery at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Dotson's donor turned out to be Michael Waters of Dayton, Ohio, who was 10 years old when he was struck and killed by a car.

Michael Waters' parents knew their son had wanted to be an organ donor and honored his wish. His heart, lungs, kidneys, eyes and limbs saved others.

His liver went to the dying toddler from Kentucky.

"Even as a kid, he'd do anything for anybody . . . he was way more mature than he needed to be," Noah Waters told Lex 18 of his older brother.

But his organ donation didn't just save Dotson's life all those years ago.

It also put her on a path to meet her future husband.

Friendship sparked

After the surgery, a friendship sparked between Dotson and Noah Waters — one that blossomed into something far deeper over the years.

"It got to the point we were FaceTiming each other eight hours a day," Dotson said. "I realized that I kind of had feelings.

"My mom had contacted him and was like, 'I think Brooke likes you' and that same weekend he came to see me."

The couple is set to tie the knot Sept. 26.

"I'd say he probably knew what his purpose was," Noah Waters said of his older brother.

"I had no idea that my brother was gonna save my wife's life 20 years later."

"I get to enjoy life because of him and I get to live and hopefully honor his memory the best way that I can," Dotson said.

"You get his last name," her soon-to-be husband joyfully added.

rpollina@nypost.com

Don delivers bad news for 'birth tourists'

President Trump issued an order Thursday to crack down on "birth tourism" after he was defeated at the Supreme Court this summer on the birthright citizenship issue.

Trump said the executive order would stop wealthy people from "buying their way" into citizenship with pregnant women traveling to the US to birth an American baby.

"People are building businesses around it. Wealthy people are building businesses around birthright citizenship. That's not the way it's supposed to work. It's a disgrace. They're buying their way in, and we're not going to let it happen," Trump noted.

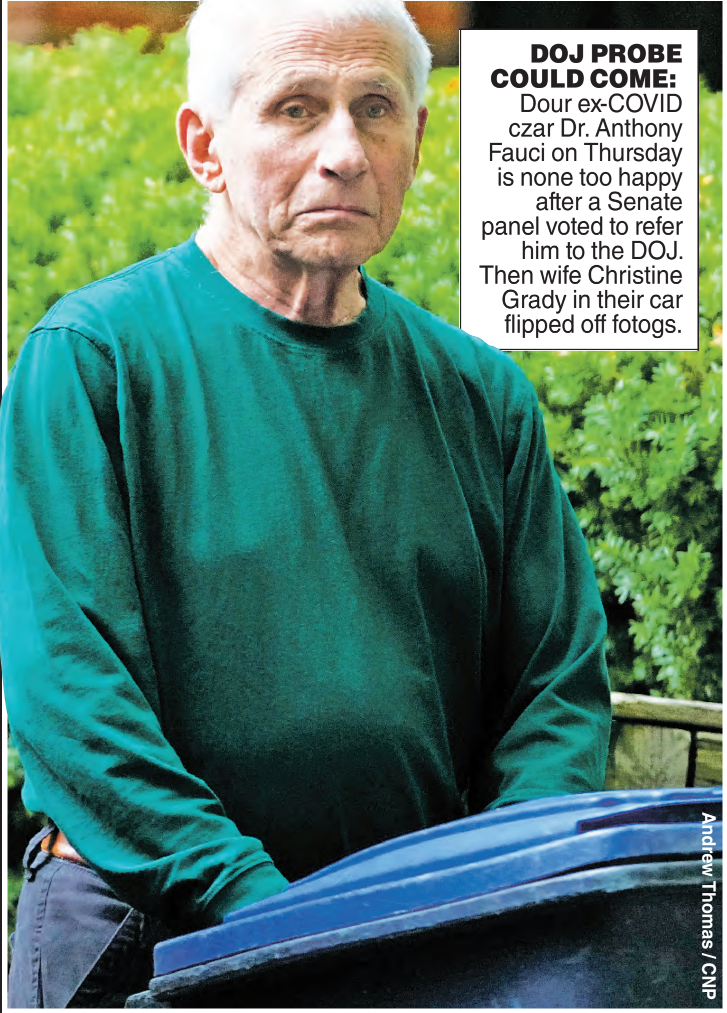
"They've taken birthright citizenship, and they've made a joke out of it," he said during a signing ceremony in the Oval Office.

The order bars citizenship for children born to mothers who enter the US for the sole purpose of having a child on American soil.

Stephen Miller, Trump's top immigration adviser, said the order targets those "pretending to be a tourist, pretending to be a visitor, saying they want to go to Disneyland or they want to go visit a monument or go to a national park, but the real reason they're here is to have a child." *Emily Goodin*

Team Fauci's 'contempt' for truth

HERE'S YOUR PROBE!



DOJ PROBE COULD COME: Dour ex-COVID czar Dr. Anthony Fauci on Thursday is none too happy after a Senate panel voted to refer him to the DOJ. Then wife Christine Grady in their car flipped off fotogs.

Andrew Thomas / CNP

By VICTOR NAVA

Grouchy Fauci.

Dr. Anthony Fauci looked downright miserable Thursday after a Senate committee voted to hold him in contempt for refusing to answer questions about his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Just hours after the vote to refer him to the Justice Department for potential prosecution, a sullen-looking Fauci was spotted frowning as he dutifully wheeled a recycling bin to the curb of the $2.4 million DC home he shares with wife and Georgetown University colleague Christine Grady.

Fauci later hopped in the passenger seat of a vehicle and was driven away by his wife.

Sit on this!

Grady, apparently enraged by the photographer's presence in their tony neighborhood, flipped off the camera before peeling off.

Fauci stared out the window as his wife made the rude gesture.

Earlier Thursday, the Senate Homeland Security Committee voted 8-5 along party lines to hold the former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in contempt of Congress after he invoked his Fifth Amendment rights 111 times last week.

If convicted of a misdemeanor contempt charge, Fauci could face up to a year in prison and a $1,000 fine.

Republican senators contend Fauci's opening statement — and the pardon he received from then-President Joe Biden for any potential crimes committed between January 2014 and January 2025 — prevented him from being able to plead the Fifth.

"The assertion of a Fifth Amendment privilege only adheres to those instances where the witness has a reasonable fear of future prosecution, and it must be tailored to any such fear," Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) noted.

The Brooklyn-born doctor had been hauled in to testify after being subpoenaed by Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who has accused Fauci of covering-up the origins of COVID-19 and misleading the public about the disease.

Panel obtains doc's phone

A Senate subcommittee has obtained a copy of Dr. Anthony Fauci's COVID-era cellphone, potentially shedding new light on his response to the viral outbreak that killed millions around the world, the panel's chairman revealed Wednesday evening.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), head of the Senate Homeland Security Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, confirmed on X that the panel "has obtained a copy of Dr. Fauci's phone from [the Department of Health and Human Services]."

"Hopefully this device will address many of the questions he refused to answer at last week's hearing," added Johnson.

The Wall Street Journal initially reported that the device had been handed over to Congress. A Johnson spokeswoman told the outlet Fauci used the phone while director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Fauci retired from government at the end of 2022 after 38 years as the head of NIAID.

Johnson's announcement came ahead of a Thursday morning vote by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to hold Fauci, 85, in contempt after he declined to answer questions last week about the pandemic, opting instead to plead the Fifth Amendment 111 times.

Fauci cited Sen. Paul's "obvious obsession with calling for my prosecution" for his refusal to answer questions.

The doctor received a sweeping pardon from then-President Joe Biden that Republicans on the committee claimed gave Fauci no reason or grounds to plead the Fifth.

Samuel Chamberlain

3 states subpoena virus czar on profit

WASHINGTON — Dr. Anthony Fauci, the former White House COVID-19 czar who became the face of the US response to the pandemic, has been subpoenaed by three state attorneys general who are investigating whether he promulgated health guidance for "personal profit."

Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier joined West Virginia Attorney General John McCuskey and Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill in requesting Fauci hand over records generated between January 2020 and August of this year.

"Government officials have a certain level of immunity in their official capacities, but if Fauci personally profited off of the 'guidance' he issued, that very well could have broken Florida law," Uthmeier said in a statement.

The request followed Sen. Rand Paul's release last month of Fauci's personal diaries, which had been made between 2019 and 2022 and preserved on government computers at the Department of Health and Human Services.

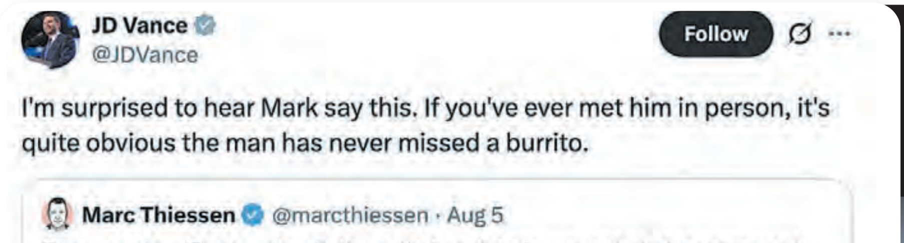
In some of the earliest entries, Fauci disputed the theory that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, originated in a Wuhan, China, wet market — despite having publicly advocated for a natural spillover from animals to humans — and denounced proponents of the so-called "lab leak theory."

"What we know already is Fauci lied — we just don't know yet how much," Murrill claimed.

Fauci's attorney did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the state subpoenas.

Josh Christenson

Republican war neglects cheesed-off voters

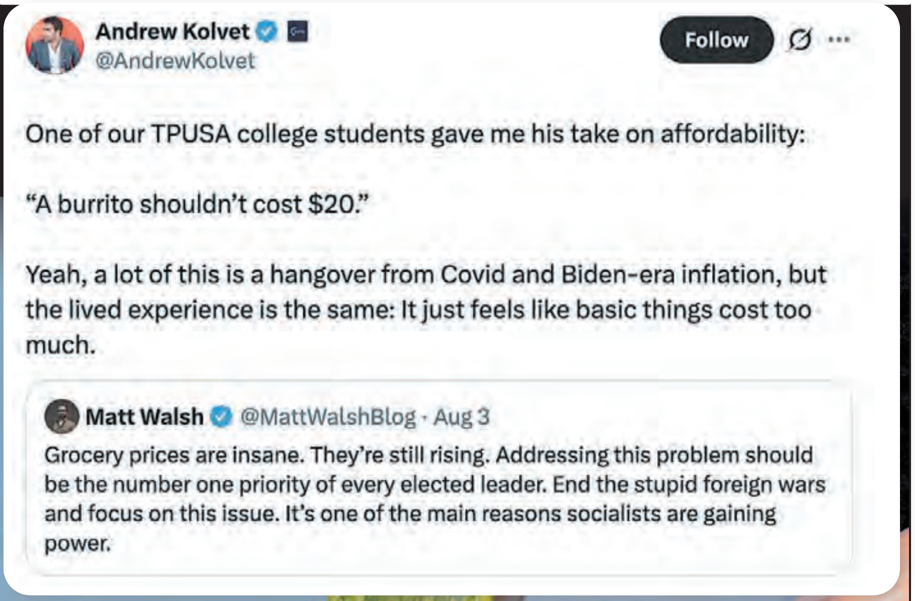


JD Vance @JDVance

I'm surprised to hear Mark say this. If you've ever met him in person, it's quite obvious the man has never missed a burrito.

Marc Thiessen @marcthiessen · Aug 5

Cry me a river. The burritos in the college cafeteria are included in your meal plan. x.com/andrewkolvet/s...



Andrew Kolvet @AndrewKolvet

One of our TPUSA college students gave me his take on affordability:

“A burrito shouldn’t cost $20.”

Yeah, a lot of this is a hangover from Covid and Biden-era inflation, but the lived experience is the same: It just feels like basic things cost too much.

Matt Walsh @MattWalshBlog · Aug 3

Grocery prices are insane. They’re still rising. Addressing this problem should be the number one priority of every elected leader. End the stupid foreign wars and focus on this issue. It’s one of the main reasons socialists are gaining power.

ZUMAPRESS.com

Bloomberg via Getty Images

THEY’VE ‘BEAN’ FIGHTING: The GOP battle to control the party messaging about the ongoing affordability crisis has hit an absurd level, with VP Vance and others arguing over the price of burritos.

All wrapped up in burrito beef

ISAAC SCHORR

THE mouthwatering next front in the war for control over the post-Trump Republican Party has revealed itself: The burrito.

And its combatants have proven more bloodthirsty than beans-and-rice crazy.

The carnage began after Andrew Kolvet of Turning Point USA weighed in on the ongoing affordability crisis that’s dominated American politics since the Biden years by noting that one student recently asserted that the tortilla-wrapped treat shouldn’t cost $20 a pop.

“Yeah, a lot of this is a hangover from Covid and Biden-era inflation, but the lived experience is the same: It just feels like basic things cost too much,” concluded Kolvet.

Conservative twitter exploded.

Ben Shapiro assured the youth “a burrito does not cost $20,” and remarked that “If you’re paying $20 for a burrito and you’re not independently wealthy, you’re doing life wrong.”

This compelled The Federalist’s Sean Davis to characterize the “Current neocon war inflation messaging” as ruling “fast food burritos” out for the lower and middle classes.

Missing the point

Elsewhere, Matt Walsh took exception with the The Babylon Bee’s Joel Berry over the observation that his wife had furnished enough burritos for their family of eight with less than $20.

“Grocery prices have gone up by 30 percent or more this decade. I’m happy for you if your family isn’t significantly impacted by this problem. But it is real. And it is a problem,” sniped Walsh. “And conservatives better come up with an answer that isn’t just ‘learn how to make cheap burritos.’ ”

And in the most viral exchange of fire to date, The Washington Post’s Marc Thiessen was rebuked in ad hominem fashion by Vice President JD Vance for telling the student in question to “Cry me a river.”

“I’m surprised to hear Mark [sic] say this. If you’ve ever met him in person, it’s quite obvious the man has never missed a burrito,” submitted the guy a heartbeat away from the nuclear codes.

It ought to go without saying, but everybody participating in the great conservative burrito war of 2026 is losing it.

Not because the underlying issues fueling it are silly, but because the Right’s leading lights are too busy taking potshots at each other to get down to the business of actually governing.

Republicans won the White House and both chambers of Congress two years ago largely because voters blamed former President Joe Biden’s pandemic-era spending spree for the sky-high price tags that followed it.

The $20 burrito is merely a symbol of the inflationary anchor that’s been tied around Americans’ ankles.

And while the *rate* at which the prices of food and other essentials skyrocketed may have decreased in recent years, the *actual prices* themselves never came down.

So while some Americans’ refusal to live within their means has compounded the cost-of-living crisis’ ill-effects, conservatives eager to casually dismiss voters’ concerns aren’t just wrong on the merits, they’re cruising for an electoral bruising.

For his part, President Trump recognized the war on inflation as his chief mandate at the outset of his second administration. Unfortunately, his actions since have been at odds with that pledge.

Trump’s tariffs (taxes) and the uncertain business environment he’s fostered with his arbitrary approach to their implementation have only made things worse.

Moreover, his failure to either secure the Strait of Hormuz at the start of Operation: Epic Fury or “go for the kill” in the intervening months has left energy markets in flux for months.

Both the burrito alarm raisers and budget hawks raise key points.

Surely there’s a way to take this fact pattern — life is too expensive, government should do what it can to make it more affordable (mostly by getting the hell out of the way), and Americans can take pressure off themselves in the meantime — and craft a much-needed political agenda and message around it.

But instead of getting to work, the Right is fighting a proxy battle over the direction of the GOP come 2028 while still in control of the entire federal government.

At once deny the fire exists and then pour gasoline on it; ask former Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries how that worked out for them.

Trump holds off endorse

President Trump dismissed a report Thursday that he’s privately told donors Vice President JD Vance must be the 2028 Republican presidential nominee — insisting that it’s “way too early” to make an official endorsement.

Earlier Thursday, The Washington Post reported Trump told GOP benefactors during an Oval Office meeting two weeks ago that “at the end of the day, we need to elect JD.” The president’s alleged remark was confirmed by Fox News.

“Too early,” Trump said on Thursday of any nod. *Victor Nava*

‘KNOCK’ING OUT

By CHADWICK MOORE

LARGO, Md. — Everyday objects clutter the cramped room, filling every surface and corner with what looks like discarded knick-knacks.

But this isn’t just junk. Each piece in this little workshop is bugged — sometimes with cameras so small they’d fit through a pinhole.

Above one heap, a wall-mounted television displays a grid of live feeds from a dozen surveillance cameras across the nation — one fixed on a house in California, another an apartment complex in Ohio, a third showing a storefront in Manhattan. Some of them are from cameras in objects like the ones in this room.

“A lot of what we’re doing is proving a negative,” one federal agent said as he worked on placing a tiny camera into an object. He points to a feed of a stately home on a cul-de-sac. “This doctor in California is billing for seeing patients right now. That’s his car in the driveway. He’s actually at home.”

The Knock, as they call it, short for National Training Operations Center (NTOC), is the high-tech crime-fighting headquarters for a branch of law enforcement many people don’t know exists — the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG).

AP

Wikipedia Commons

$10B catheter scheme

HHS-OIG is the primary investigative agency behind many splashy fraud takedowns in recent months, including a $10 billion urinary catheter scheme linked to the Russian mob and an alleged $38 million adult daycare scam busted in Brooklyn, which ensnared Pakistani community leaders who cozied up to top Democrats.

Investigators admit it is an unsexy job — chipping away at the nation’s explosive healthcare-fraud epidemic — but someone’s got to do it, even if they never seem to get much credit.

The Post got an exclusive tour of The Knock, an elite facility tucked away in a leafy, suburban medical plaza outside Washington, DC.

Behind blacked-out plate windows and an unmarked storefront, a small army of data analysts, digital forensics investigators and good ol’ fashioned shoe leather cops work to claw back billions of dollars stolen from taxpayers each year.

“No one is better at fighting fraud than HHS-OIG,” Acting Deputy Inspector General for Investigations Scott Lampert told The Post.

“Many of our agents have a passion for medicine or medical fraud. We have agents that are nurse practitioners, physician assistants, attorneys, people that have joined medical professions and want to take that love for their work and apply it differently.”

But with an estimated $100 bil-

NY GOP: Turn over tips, AG

By BRANDON CRUZ

It’s not like the Empire State’s gonna do it themselves!

Top Suffolk County Republicans are pushing a bill that would force the state to share Medicaid fraud tips with local governments and prosecutors so they could investigate the claims themselves.

Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine, District Attorney Ray Tierney and other local officials stood with state Sen. Dean Murray on Thursday in Hauppauge as he introduced the bill — and a related piece of legislation that would offer a cash reward to whistleblowers who help convict fraudsters.

“We need to crack down on those who are cheating and stealing from the system and we need to fund all local efforts, and saying if you help recover money from a fraudster, you’re entitled to keep some of that money, so that we send a very clear message,” Romaine said at a news conference in the H. Lee Dennison county building.

“You want to cheat the public? You want to steal from the poor? You want to enrich yourself? We’re coming for you,” Romaine said.

The Empire State’s $110 billion Medicaid program spends more per resident than any other state while ranking last in fraud convictions related to the program nationwide — a gap that Romaine and the other officials argued shows that the state’s system has no real oversight as Medicaid costs soar.

“When you steal money from this program, you steal it from the very people that would benefit from this program — that’s why the cost in New York is twice the cost of Texas and California combined,” Romaine said.

Info withheld

The problem, officials said, is that Medicaid fraud tips to the state are not shared with local authorities, leaving any potential investigations up to New York Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, whose office is busy probing “the big fish” while smaller schemers slip through the cracks.

James’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit has recovered over $627 million during her tenure, mostly due to a small number of large seizures, according to data from the AG’s office, but the unit had its funding suspended by President Trump in June due to its dead-last ranking in criminal prosecutions.

“The facts are we’re not doing enough — our system is inundated with waste fraud and abuse,” Murray said.

HEALTH SCAMS

Peek at feds' tech & training vs. fraudsters

ON THE JOB: After the arrest of a suspect in a healthcare scam and the seizing of evidence (inset below), a unit under the Department of Health and Human Services employs investigative tech such as a Faraday box (inset left) that blocks remote attempts at wiping data by WiFi, Bluetooth or cellular means.

AP

lion taken by fraudsters each year, HHS-OIG can seem severely understaffed. Lampert said each of his investigators returns on average $45,000 a day in stolen taxpayer funds.

"That's $15 million-a-year per investigator. If I had 100 more agents, think about what I could do. If HHS-OIG was on the stock market, I would invest in us. We have a tried-and-true solid return on investment with our partners. But with more resources, we can do more," he said.

In one cavernous white room with a thick padded floor, fraud cops fitted me with a virtual-reality headset, transporting me into their world for training.

Inside was a mind-bendingly realistic doctor's office, where armed suspects opened fire. In the next scenario, I barged into a physician's home, interrupting his virtual dinner. The digitized MD seized a baseball bat off the credenza and advanced toward me.

The technology is designed to prepare agents for high-stakes confrontations with scammers, but they also do it the old fashioned way, too.

One room of The Knock is built just like a doctor's office, down to the reception desk, table lamps and filing cabinets — except everything is made of foam, and there's a threat assessment target hiding behind a doorway.

"Tell me that doesn't look like Paul Rudd," said Tom, a special agent and my guide, of the paper cut-out bad guy. "We all call him Paul Rudd."

"When we do a takedown, I wear my body armor. I'm a big guy. I'm trying to get through somebody's dining room without breaking the Ming vase. This stuff gives us an opportunity to train in a safe way."

From there, the tour moved to the digital forensics lab, where rows of specialists work methodically to extract data from seized computers and phones.

Bad guys are likely to smash up their tech when the cops crash through the door, so The Knock has its own clean room with rows of microscopes, clean room "bunny" suits and a dust-sucking ceiling vac to aid in meticulously restoring damaged gizmos.

Stopping data 'wiping'

Most devices nowadays can be wiped remotely so the clean room also has a state-of-the-art Faraday box: a large metal enclosure with a transparent top and two gloved arm holes — think Homer handling the glowing uranium rod in "The Simpsons" title sequence — that blocks electromagnetic and radio frequency fields like WiFi, Bluetooth and cellular. Devices are powered off upon confiscation and only turned on in the Faraday box, where the contents can be safely downloaded before they catch a potentially corrupting cell signal.

Of the agency's 1,450 employees, over 100 are dedicated to data analytics — trawling through trillions of dollars in billing records looking for anomalies. Four hundred agents are program auditors, who were key in sniffing out $600 million in improper payments across six states in fraud-riddled autism services from 2017-2024.

HHS-OIG also has 50 field offices — known as Medicaid fraud control units — nationwide, where they work in partnership with local cops, the FBI, Department of Justice and state Medicaid authorities.

Fraudsters run the gamut from sophisticated to shameless, said Lampert, like the 2018 case in New York when a man named Ballal Hossain signed up a dozen family members to work as caregivers for his mom.

Busting up schemes

The crew was paid $348,000 from Medicaid over six years to look after the elderly woman at a Manhattan apartment, all the while she was actually living in Bangladesh.

Hossain got his brother to pose as their sick mother whenever inspectors showed up, before finally being caught and later sentenced for grand larceny, according to prosecutors.

OIG is exempt from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, better known as HIPAA, said Lampert, meaning agents can peep into the medical records of anyone in the country. That comes in handy when a Medicaid recipient, for one example he gave, gets taxpayers to buy him two prosthetic legs and a fake arm — with no corresponding record of surgery.

"We knock on their door, they open the door and they have two legs. Pretty easy to prove that claim is false," said Lampert. "That's some of the best evidence to take into court. 'Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, his arm!' Criminals try and get creative, but they're not all smart."

HHS-OIG acknowledge things are so widespread they have become endemic in certain cities, and the recipients of the cash are often bought off. "Kickbacks drive these schemes. It's the fuel to the fire. If beneficiaries weren't being paid to sometimes fraudulently enroll in [Medicaid programs] these schemes couldn't survive or they'd be more difficult to perpetuate," said Lampert. Still, there's little appetite to prosecute the patients, even if that might send a message. "We don't often arrest beneficiaries. These type of schemes, we really want to cut the head of the snake."

FAREWELL, ‘PUSSY’

James Keivom

‘MOB’ OF MOURNERS: “Sopranos” actor Vincent Pastore is celebrated at his funeral Thursday, with co-star Steve Van Zandt (near right) one of the pallbearers.

‘Sopranos’ *Big* guy buried

By MARIE POHL
and NATALIE O’NEILL

“The Sopranos” star Vincent Pastore was remembered as a big cash tipper and a late-life rocker at his funeral Thursday — as one of his co-stars revealed the final phone call they shared.

More than 100 mourners flocked to Holy Family Church in New Rochelle to say a final goodbye to the beloved 80-year-old actor, best known for his role as Salvatore “Big Pussy” Bonpensiero in the hit HBO series.

Heartbroken daughter Renee Pastore described her dad as “a giving person” grateful for the cards he was dealt in life.

“He was a man who lived out his dreams . . . but he knew how lucky he was,” she said between tears.

“I think that’s why he tried to share as much of it with as many people as possible. Whether that was a big tip, always in cash, or by shaking hands with every cop on every corner.”

Vincent ran nightlife venues in Westchester such as The Crazy Horse bar before becoming a professional actor in his 40s, Renee said.

“He hosted my sixth birthday party at The Crazy Horse . . . I remember keeping my dolls in his DJ booth,” she said, sparking laughter in the audience of 150 people.

Music man

After his acting career took off — with roles in flicks like “Goodfellas” and “Carlito’s Way” — he started a band in his golden years.

“I mean, what 60-year-old man, with almost no musical experience, starts a band?” she said fondly.

“Sopranos” co-star Steve Van Zandt, also a longtime guitarist in Bruce Springsteen’s E Street Band, was one of Pastore’s pallbearers.

He told The Post he saw Pastore “quite often” and fondly remembered their final phone call.

“We just happened to call him two days ago. The day before he died, we luckily just happened to call him,” he said of himself and wife Maureen — with whom Pastore founded a theater company.

“He was one of a kind, and we’ll miss him very much.”

Pastore, a Vietnam vet, was carried out of the church in a coffin with an American flag draped over it.

He enlisted in the Navy and served from 1964 to 1967 before returning home to attend Pace University on the GI Bill.

At the end of her eulogy, Renee asked his loved ones “to pass on what he has given to you” through an act of kindness.

“Give your waiter a giant tip in cash. Maybe it’s a reminder to stop and talk to the bus driver, or a police officer, or make the lady behind the coffee counter laugh,” she said.

“That’s how we remember him. That’s a big honor,” she said.

ASPCA mass rescue of 100 felines

More than 100 cats were rescued from three deplorably unsanitary homes in Queens and The Bronx Thursday, according to authorities.

The ASPCA took custody of the fretful felines after overwhelmed pet owners surrendered them — recognizing they could not properly care for the litters.

Kittens and some pregnant cats were also taken from the dwellings, according to the ASPCA.

After receiving medical exams, the cats are being transported to the agency’s recovery facility in Ohio for treatment before they go up for adoption.

Pictures showed the adorable kitties receiving shots and having their vital signs taken by veterinary staff.

“The ASPCA has seen an uptick in requests to assist with large-scale animal hoarding and neglect situations across New York in recent months, and our teams are working tirelessly to provide critical sheltering, medical care, behavioral treatment and enrichment, legal and investigative support, and safety-net services to help animals and pet owners in need,” Elizabeth Brandler, VP of ASPCA cruelty response, said in a statement.

“We’re grateful to be in a position where we can mobilize at a moment’s notice to ensure the safety of vulnerable animals and, when appropriate, support investigative and prosecutorial efforts to hold animal abusers accountable. When animals are in need, the ASPCA goes there,” Brandler said. *Zoe Hussain*

LINDSAY CLANCY
Wept during testimony.

Autopsy of tot shared

Lindsay Clancy audibly wept as a medical examiner testified about the autopsy she performed on the Massachusetts mother’s 8-month-old baby boy — before Clancy’s friend recounted visiting her in the hospital after she allegedly strangled her three kids.

Dr. Kimberly Springer was questioned for roughly 20 minutes about examining Clancy’s youngest son, Callan, as the mom sobbed through nearly the entire testimony before Judge William Sullivan called a recess Thursday morning.

Clancy is accused of strangling her three kids with exercise bands at her Duxbury home before slitting her wrists and neck and throwing herself out of a second-story window in 2023.

Prosecutors claimed Clancy carefully planned the slayings because she was tired of taking care of her kids, Cora, 5, Dawson, 3, and Callan. *Priscilla DeGregory and Georgia Worrell*

Tragedy over noise beef

A Missouri mother and her teenage daughter were shot and killed by their elderly neighbor who confronted them outside their home over a noise complaint before he turned the gun on himself and died days later.

Jessica Lashly, 38, and Jersey Greer, 17, were gunned down at their House Springs, Mo., home when 73-year-old Robert Winkelman confronted the pair around 8:30 p.m. on July 25, the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office said.

Nicholas McEntyre

Power, politics, and the stories behind the headlines.

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Anna gives agitator long runway

ANNA Wintour is "obsessed" with designer **John Galliano**, leading to his being honored at the 2027 Met Gala — even if it leads to high-profile guests skipping the event, sources tell Page Six.

The Vogue doyenne has been plotting for years to award her close friend, we're told, who was fired from the helm of Dior in 2011 over an antisemitic outburst.

"Anna has said that her favorite fashion show of all time is Galliano's fall-winter 1994 collection, often referred to as 'The Black Show,'" said **Amy Odell**, who wrote Wintour's biography. "Think how many fashion shows this woman has gone to — and this is the one she picks. She thinks he's a creative genius. She's obsessed with him."

Met Gala chair Wintour and head of the Met's Costume Center **Andrew Bolton** met with Jewish leaders before making their final decision, as previously reported.

But it's left many furious. **Philippe Virgitti** — whom Galliano raged at in a Parisian bar, calling him a "f--king Asian bastard" and his girlfriend a "f--king ugly Jewish bitch" and "dirty Jew face" — calls the designer "a pig" in a new book, adding, "He's garbage. He caused a great deal of harm."

"Odd Mom Out" star **Jill Kargman**, a regular at the Met Ball, said of the decision to make Galliano just one of three living designers to be honored by the museum, "I am APPALLED. I guess antisemitism is OK now at the highest art museum . . . Substitute any other minority and he'd be (RIGHTFULLY) canceled permanently."

Galliano said he was suffering from substance abuse at the time. But p.r. whiz **Lauren London** claimed she witnessed another antisemitic Galliano rant in 2019 at a spa when he "was sober," she wrote on Instagram. She claimed her friend started speaking Hebrew, and the designer yelled "Merry Christmas!" and "very unapologetically" said he "had a problem with Hebrew."

A rep for Galliano didn't get back to us. Wintour said in a statement, "There is no one more deserving of an exhibition of this scale than John Galliano," but insisted, "The exhibition won't shy away from any of the darkness in John's past."

Hunt for teXXXts

LIZ Cho is reportedly being ordered to fork over six years worth of private texts to her ex, former CBS anchor **Josh Elliott**, as their divorce battle rages on in court. Despite initially fighting the request, the ABC "Eyewitness News" anchor agreed to produce all cellphone communications with any alleged lovers during a July 24 virtual hearing, the Daily Mail reported yesterday. The order came after Elliott agreed to Cho's demand that he supply all of his communications with any alleged extramarital "sexual" partners. There is no evidence either of them cheated. Elliott filed for divorce after nearly a decade of marriage on June 20, 2025.

The weakest links

JA Rule was so annoyed with his golf performance after losing a closest-to-the-pin showdown with celeb chef **Kwame Onwuachi** at **Herb Karlitz**'s seventh annual Celebrity Chefs & Friends Golf, Tennis & Pickleball Tournament that he immediately demanded a rematch, sources tell us. (It's scheduled for Sunday.) They had to "face off" on an indoor golf simulator at Montclair Golf Club after Mother Nature twice washed out the event benefiting City Harvest. Ja Rule (above) also performed "Mesmerize" and "New York" to a sold-out crowd.

THANK YOU
FOR BEING
A FRIEND

Puppy love! Zendaya and Tom Holland are officially married, wearing their wedding bands in public for the first time as they walk their dogs in London.

BACKGRID

Formidable Flo's last scoop

FAMED gossip columnist Florence "Flo" Anthony died Wednesday at 74 after losing a battle to cancer, her longtime friend **Jean Shafiroff** told Page Six. Anthony was a gossip trailblazer, the first woman to work in the sports section at The Post and the first African American reporter at Page Six. "Her love was celebrity gossip," her publicist and friend **Todd Shapiro** told us. "She was a celebrity herself in the world of gossip." Anthony married the love of her life, boxer **Michael Spinks**, in January of this year. Shafiroff told us, "Everybody loved her. She was just a decent, honest person who loved life."

Party for 'Brand New' spouses

ZENDAYA and **Tom Holland** hosted a private wedding celebration with their friends and family after secretly tying the knot, Page Six can confirm. The "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" co-stars (left) celebrated at the Beaverbrook Hotel in Surrey, England, Tuesday. Our source said hotel staffers had to sign NDAs. "Tom and Zendaya went to great lengths to stop any information or pictures getting out, so neither guests nor staff were allowed their mobiles," an insider told the Sun. Holland, 30, and Zendaya, 29, reportedly spent more than $670,000 to rent the entire estate. Reps weren't available for comment. Zendaya's stylist, **Law Roach**, suggested in March that she and Holland had already wed.

McCain a 'big pain'

MEGHAN McCain is persona non grata at her TV alma mater. After news broke that "The View" is planning to invite back past hosts for the show's 30th anniversary, multiple sources tell Page Six they'd prefer to keep McCain away. Several said they would "be shocked" if brass extended an invite "given the way she treated people." "She's the most horrible, biggest pain in the ass," they told us of her behavior on camera and off. One source claimed she hurled an F-bomb at the executive producer in front of their studio audience. "She's a nut bag!" they added. "Forget about how she treated her co-hosts," another source said. "It's more about how she treated the staff. She would even scream across the stage, 'Do you know who I am?'" After we reached out for comment, McCain wrote on X that she has "no desire or plans to ever return to the show." A rep for "The View" did not comment.

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HARLEM BUG DEATH SUITS

City hit for '25 outbreak

By JORDAN DONEGAN
and MATT TROUTMAN

Grieving families and survivors of a deadly Legionnaires' disease outbreak linked to city-owned buildings in Harlem sued the Big Apple Thursday — demanding Mayor Mamdani take action as he deals with a new deadly cluster.

Three lawsuits unveiled by the Rev. Al Sharpton and civil rights attorney Ben Crump in Harlem included a wrongful-death claim covering five of the seven people who tragically died in the 2025 outbreak.

An emotional Lakisha Plowden cradled her 6-year-old daughter during the news conference, recounting afterward how fiancée Bruce Scott died from the disease while holding her hand in Harlem Hospital.

"The last time she's seen her dad, he was leaving to go to the hospital," she said. "And he never came back out.

"The dynamic that's so troubling that these were just regular people living in Harlem, unsuspecting at all."

The lawsuits contend that more than 100 people in Harlem contracted the disease because Big Apple officials and contractors effectively let Legionella bacteria fester in cooling towers atop the city's Public Health Lab and Harlem Hospital — the building where Power died.

Several filings

The wrongful death claim comes from Plowden's family, as well as those of Ronald Israel, Clara Rodriguez, Edgar Tatum Jr. and Rachel Tew, who also died during the outbreak.

The two other suits cover surviving victims and accuse the city, New York City Health + Hospital, the city's Economic Development Corporation, construction firm Skanska USA Building and four contractors of negligence and maintaining a public nuisance.

The trio of lawsuits dovetailed with related filings that Crump and Sharpton unveiled last year, pointing the finger at city-owned buildings and, ultimately, then-Mayor Eric Adams' administration.

Crump called on Mamdani to do right by the families, even if the outbreak happened under his predecessor's watch.

He also slyly mentioned this summer's Legionnaires' disease cluster on the Upper East Side that has so far left seven people dead and sickened dozens of others — an outbreak for which Mamdani faced fire over his administration's alleged flat-footed response.

A spokesperson for the city's law department maintained officials worked to protect New Yorkers.

Yacht death *not* an OD: attorney

A glamorous fashion designer found dead under mysterious circumstances at an upscale Montauk yacht club was bloodied, with the scene wiped clean before cops got there, a lawyer for her family said.

The bombshell revelations cast more doubt that 33-year-old Martha Nolan- O'Slatarra died from a drug overdose aboard the yacht "Ripple" at the ritzy club on Aug. 5, 2025, as cops initially believed, according to attorney Michael Bowe of Brithem LLP.

Bowe on Tuesday filed a "notice of claim" announcing the family's intention to file a $50 million wrongful-death suit against the boat's owner, Christopher Durnan, arguing that Nolan-O'Slatarra died due to assault and negligence, not an OD.

The notice does not detail accusations against Durnan, but claims he "intentionally and wrongfully assaulted" Nolan-O'Slatarra.

Durnan, who could not be reached for comment, has not been charged in the case.

Shane Galvin and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon

Trump 'T' slap gal falls $hort

The lefty Canadian illegal immigrant who slapped a teenage girl who was wearing pro-Trump clothing at the Jersey Shore embarrassingly failed to raise half the money requested for her legal fund.

An online fundraiser for Kaitlyn Tracey's legal expenses in her immigration case only raised $4,857 of its $10,000 goal — a final, humiliating blow as she was ordered to be deported to her home country on Tuesday.

An earlier GoFundMe campaign for Tracey, 33, was launched by her Trump-hating husband, Matthew Geroni, last month, but the company soon took it down because it violated their policy preventing raising money for people accused of violent crimes.

Tracey pleaded guilty Tuesday over the phone in Toms River from a Texas ICE lockup to one count of simple assault, a misdemeanor, as part of a cushy plea deal.

She was exiled to Canada and additionally sentenced to one day behind bars — though she was granted time served.

Patrick Reilly

City flub on car tix nix

Get it in gear.

The city botched the first two days of a brand new alternate-side parking project this week — resulting in dozens of Brooklynites erroneously getting $65 tickets on their windshields.

The drivers were hit with the annoying penalty after the city said it was no longer enforcing alternate side twice a week in Prospect Heights starting Monday — but parking enforcers failed to get the message and wrongly ticketed numerous cars that were legally parked under the new rules.

The mix-up on what was supposed to be an effort to ease onerous parking rules left residents infuriated.

"That's not a valid excuse! Come on, this is the age of tech, so there's no excuse at all for that," raged Glenn Sainsbury, whose nephew, Christopher, woke up Monday to an orange $65 ticket.

This week marked the first that the wealthy neighborhood was meant to enjoy a reduced schedule.

Prospect Heights is typically saddled with twice-weekly sweepings per side of the road — which results in the neighborhood being littered with more double parking than trash.

Katherine Donlevy and Jordan Donegan

Fun-park nightmare

Thrill seekers at a popular New Jersey amusement park screamed in terror as they were left dangling upside-down after a ride broke down.

Riders were stuck in the air for five to seven minutes when the Wipe Out ride at Playland's Castaway Cove at the Ocean City Boardwalk malfunctioned on July 5, Storyful revealed on Wednesday. It's not known what caused the ride to break down.

Riders are raised into the air on an arm and spun around.

The Post has approached the park for comment.

Chris Bradford

Dining 101 floors above Hudson Yards

SKY HIGH: Diners at Peak restaurant at 30 Hudson Yards get a free pass to the building's outlook — known as the Edge — to go with eats from prix fixe and à la carte modern-American menus.

Kitchen's pots and panorama

STEVE CUOZZO
Post restaurant critic

PEAK, the 101st-floor restaurant atop 30 Hudson Yards, has reached new heights.

Opened by London-based Rhubarb Hospitality just before the pandemic, the eatery never quite hit its stride. Last fall, Tao Group took over as management. After a thoughtful redesign, it reopened as Peak With Priceless at the end of May.

It's now the city's top place to dine with a view — conjuring the spirit of Windows on the World.

Nighttime reservations for window tables are already hard to come by, and the festive vibe from Peak's same-floor neighbor, Avenue Sky Lounge — a second coming of the fabled West Chelsea nightlife spot and home to a Knicks victory celebration — spills over onto the dining floor.

There will never be another Windows on the World, the sprawling venue at the top of the World Trade Center north tower that was the city's No. 1 celebration venue until its destruction on 9/11.

Enjoy the view

Like millions of others, I cherish memories of festive nights there. But its vertical windows were too narrow for full appreciation of the skyline. Peak has bigger windows, a better uptown location and consistently better food — not to mention free access to the 100th-floor outdoor observation deck Edge, which starts at $42 per person for non-diners.

Tao Group's chief culinary officer, Ralph Scamardella, presides over splendid prix fixe and à la carte modern-American menus (à la carte appetizers $24 to $37, most entrees $38 to $95, desserts $18 to $27. Window tables are three-course prix fixe only, $95 at lunch, $145 dinner).

Steamed black sea bass revealed a disciplined kitchen, turning out a specimen sweet and delicate on the tongue in a warm broth of fresh tomato water and olives, finished with oregano and fermented chili. A Maine lobster arrived tender in tail and claw, mildly spiced and served over sauteed spinach.

Seared, center-cut filet au poivre was coated in cracked peppercorns, basted with herb butter and topped with julienned mushroom duxelles — perfectly medium-rare-plus and oozing juice at every pore.

The dessert not to skip, "Skyline," resembled a monumental pyramid. Hazelnut mousse is blended with salted caramel and finished with a dark chocolate spray.

But Peak is more than a dining experience. The free admission to Edge is a huge bargain, and what's more Edge just introduced seven so-called "immersive experiences" — pulsating and flickering light shows themed to the city beyond.

One, "Reflections," has 200 mirrored surfaces that seem to turn to follow you around the floor.

Peak gives everyone reason to eat, drink and be happy — and to celebrate New York City.

Stephen Yang (3)

Way to vend for yourself

Nostalgic for a 1,050-pound MetroCard vending machine?

Then get ready to pay at least $1,500 (the minimum bid), for one of the clunky contraptions (right) in a city auction running until Aug. 19. The machines, installed in 1999 and phased out with MetroCards last year, will go to the highest bidders.

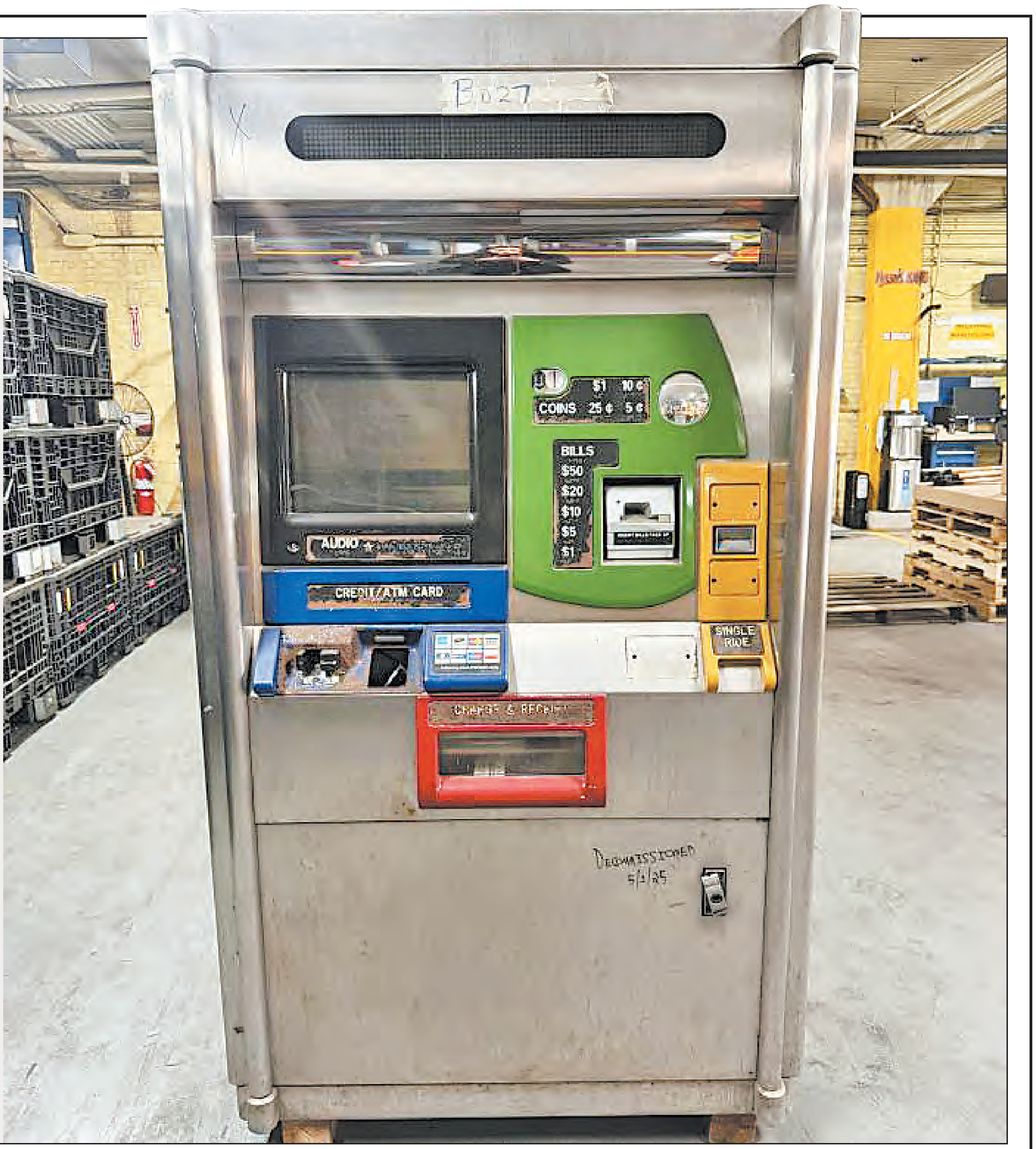
News of the sale left some New Yorkers, of course, bemused.

"Ahh yes, buy the machine that used to TAKE OUR MONEY!" one skeptic tweeted beneath the MTA's auction announcement.

Another asked: "Will these include the rats and human piss scents?" Another mused, "Is this what the MTA needs to do to raise funding? Pathetic."

But the city is serious about the auction of MetroCard vending machines and express machines which sold prepaid fare cards to commuters for nearly three decades.

"There are a limited number of machines available through this auction, so we encourage anyone interested in owning a piece of transit history to ... submit a bid soon." *Asia Grace*



New York City Transit

'Lew' who's talking

Corey's bid to get back in Don's circle

By EMILY GOODIN

WASHINGTON — Corey Lewandowski may be down, but don't count him out.

The rough-and-tumble political consultant took a hit when President Trump fired Kristi Noem as his Homeland Security secretary in March, ending Lewandowski's position as a special government employee with its inside access and perks.

But he's working on worming his way back to the inner circle even as he maintains his romantic relationship with Noem (pictured), observers told The Post.

"Corey is looking for ways to get back in good with President Trump," one Republican strategist said.

And when Lewandowski recently targeted Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) — a lawmaker who has earned Trump's ire — many saw that as a way to curry favor with the president.

"John Thune, who happens to be up for re-election — not this November but two years from now — is very susceptible to a very serious Republican primary challenge," Lewandowski told conservative podcaster John Fredericks in late June.

Multiple Republicans described Trump's good favor as essential to Lewandowski and his business, Lewandowski Strategic Advisors, a government and public affairs firm that advises clients on public policy and federal strategies.

"He values that relationship more than anything else," one said of Lewandowski and Trump. He "dines out" on it, said another.

Lewandowski is unlikely to admit he's on the outs. He pointed out to The Post on Thursday that two incumbent senators lost their primaries after the president endorsed a rival: Bill Cassidy in Louisiana and John Cornyn in Texas.

"President Trump carried the state of South Dakota by nearly 30 points. The people of that state overwhelmingly support his agenda for America," Lewandowski said. "No politician is immune to the will of the voters."

He then pivoted to pitching Trump's signature legislation — arguing for passage of the SAVE America Act. "I would encourage every incumbent senator to achieve this objective."

Lewandowski didn't specifically name a challenger for Thune, but the description he offered on the podcast made people think of Noem, given her record of success: she was the first woman elected governor of South Dakota and was elected to the House of Representatives three times in the state.

Nolan's pals back to island

The friends of Nolan Wells who were at Horn Island on the fateful Fourth of July weekend will return to the Mississippi barrier island to get a firsthand look at where the college football star vanished and was later found dead, according to their lawyers.

Wells' self-described "best friend" Warren Hudson, along with pals Jax Pitalo and Morgan Seymour, will return to Horn Island Friday with their attorneys to inspect where the 18-year-old was last seen alive on July 4, the pals' attorneys, J. Tyler Cox and Edward Andrew Paltzik, said in a joint statement to TMZ.

The purpose of the trip is to understand the island's "layout and dynamics," the lawyers said, stressing they will not be gathering or collecting evidence during the visit to the island 10 miles off the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Paltzik, who has represented President Trump in high-profile media lawsuits, said he "needs to lay eyes on the island himself," the outlet reported.

Wells disappeared after a boating trip with his friends. His body was found two days later near the island.

Officials say no evidence thus far points to foul play, but Wells' family has retained civil rights attorney Ben Crump. *Ella Morrison*

Ma, baby 'drowning'

A single Michigan mom of three and her newborn son were found dead in a bathtub — sending a local community reeling with questions over the sudden loss.

Police found the 36-year-old mother and her 2-month-old son who "appeared to have drowned in the bathtub" in Waterford Township around 10:30 p.m., authorities said.

The mother, identified by local outlets as Desiree Wheeler, and her baby were given life-saving measures on the scene and later pronounced dead at local hospitals.

The deaths are still being investigated. *Zoe Hussain*

The spot for hot gals to meet rich men

‘SUGAR BABIES’ REBRAND

MONEY HONEY: Model Myori Granger (above) isn’t ashamed to say she’s looking for a provider husband on Seeking, a revamped site that co-CEOs Brandon Wade and wife Dana Rosewall (inset) say promotes honest expectations.

Courtesy of Myori Grainger

By KYRA BRESLIN

Myori Granger could most likely land a date with any man she wanted.

The leggy model and influencer turns heads walking down the sidewalk in jeans and a T-shirt, never mind on the catwalk — and she’s got nearly 150,000 adoring Instagram followers.

Still, she struggled finding what she most wanted — financial security. “I wasn’t having the best experience,” the New Jersey native confessed to The Post of her dating life.

Too much trial-and-error, too many unanswered questions going into too many evenings. Prompted by a close friend, she signed up for a dating website specifically aimed at matching “security-seeking” women with a partner who can (and wants to) provide for them — for life.

Forget sugar babies. What Granger wanted, in essence, was to become a sugar wife.

Great first date

She turned to Seeking — a dating platform originally founded in 2006 as Seeking Arrangements, which had launched “sugar baby” culture into the mainstream.

The site, after a revamp, now aims to attract people who want “lasting partnerships and love built on a mutual desire to live an aspirational and fulfilled life.”

Strip away the euphemisms, of course, and it’s a tale as old as time: Hot young women offering sex and companionship to rich older men.

Being straight about that arrangement is what attracted Granger.

Eager to find a man “willing to invest” in a relationship with her, she had what she calls one of her “best first dates.”

“He picked me up in a beautiful car, surprised me with gorgeous flowers, and took me to a three-Michelin-starred restaurant,” she recounted. “We ended the evening by a fireplace overlooking the water while enjoying a great bottle of wine.”

She was sold. The man was transparent from the beginning about what he wanted — and so was she. The experience, she said, was refreshing.

“Dating becomes a much better experience when people are honest about who they are and what they’re looking for,” the 32-year-old said.

“Being clear about your expectations saves everyone time, creates stronger connections, and gives people the opportunity to build relationships on trust and authenticity from day one.”

Dabbling in the lifestyle, she said, helped her feel free to stop settling. “There is no limit to what I can achieve or deserve,” she said.

New York divorce attorney James Sexton says that the demanding women of today aren’t inventing a thing — they’re just rebranding ancient custom.

“All relationships are an economy,” said Sexton, for whom failing marriages are just another day at the office. “An economy is an exchange of value.”

The difference today, he said, isn’t that money suddenly matters — it’s that people are increasingly comfortable acknowledging it.

“Sugar dating is saying the quiet part out loud,” Sexton said.

Brandon Wade was the brains behind Seeking Arrangements — initially causing eye rolls with his idea that openly prioritizing wealth in a romantic relationship was OK.

Inspired by his mother’s advice that women were looking for successful men who could provide, he built a platform where wealth isn’t something to hide — it’s the point.

“From her perspective, women [were] looking for a specific caliber of men, men that can provide,” Wade told The Post. “Her advice for me was, ‘Focus on your school . . . once you are successful, the dating will simply happen naturally.’ ”

Needless to say, the site was a hit, especially for him, because it’s where he met his wife of four years, Dana Rosewall, who is 30 years younger than he.

Wade admits he leaned into the sensational headlines that his site was nothing but gussied-up prostitution. They helped grow the business but, over time, he says, that image became more transactional than he intended — and became a liability.

Honesty is key

Now, with conversations about provider men, financial compatibility, and traditional relationship roles becoming more mainstream, Wade, 55, and Rosewall, 25, now the site’s co-CEO, say the culture has finally caught up to what they say Seeking was always trying to facilitate: people being honest about what they want in a partner.

Rosewall doesn’t believe that today’s users, particularly the women, are looking for anything radically new. She thinks they’re finally comfortable with saying it out loud.

“I think part of the issue is the women were being labeled gold diggers for wanting a guy that provides, and there’s nothing wrong with that,” she insisted.

While others — like herself — want to weed out the dating pool options to find someone who matches their ambition quickly.

“They’re all asking for the same thing,” she said. “I just want the choice, and I don’t want to be ridiculed for my dating preference.”

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‘FRIEND’ IN HIRE PLACE

Mayor, cop big sorority sis

By JOE MARINO,
STEVEN VAGO
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

NEW YORK POST
Page Six
LATE CITY FINAL
MOMMY & CLYDE
Mt. Vernon deputy police commish drove getaway car for son's gang shooting: DA
PAGES 4-5

The disgraced Westchester County police official charged with driving her gangbanging son to a shooting is a sorority sister of the mayor who gave her the cushy gig.

Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard hired Jennifer Lackard to head up the newly created police department Wellness Unit in 2020, despite her having no law enforcement experience, an ex-con husband and an out-of-control son in a street gang.

City officials confirmed Thursday the mayor and the disgraced police bigwig were sorority sisters, with sources telling The Post they were both sworn to Delta Sigma Theta.

Same church

The two also attend Grace Baptist Church, an influential congregation in the troubled city, and sources said the church’s politically connected pastor, the Rev. Franklyn Richardson, may have pulled some strings to help Lackard land the lucrative job.

It is also unclear if Lackard, 49, was the only candidate considered for the $125,000 police department position, and if Patterson-Howard’s reported friendship played a role in the selection.

The mayor’s office declined to address those questions, and maintained that Patterson-Howard didn’t even know the controversial cop until she was hired — and said the two aren’t even friends.

“There was no personal relationship between Jennifer Lackard and Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard either prior to or during Ms. Lackard’s employment with the City of Mount Vernon,” a rep for the mayor’s office said in a statement Thursday.

“Ms. Lackard was hired by former Police Commissioner Glenn Scott following the city’s established hiring process,” the statement said.

However, a photo posted on Facebook shows the two women arm in arm and smiling at an event. When Chase Lackard was shot in the chest during a gang-related encounter on a Bronx city bus in 2023, sources said Mount Vernon cops showed up at Jacobi Hospital.

In a statement Wednesday, the mayor said Lackard was hired because of her 15-year career in mental health and substance abuse services, which fit the new unit’s task.

‘Rigorous check’

She said Lackard underwent a “rigorous background check,” and that her husband’s drug conviction did not disqualify her for the position.

Patterson-Howard finally fired Lackard Tuesday, but only after police arrested her, her drug-peddling husband, James Lackard, and their troublemaking 20-year-old son, Chase Lackard, for their alleged role in a botched drive-by shooting of a gang rival on June 29.

All three were indicted on attempted murder, conspiracy, attempted assault and gun charges.

Jennifer and Chase Lackard were picked up by cops at their Bronx home on Tuesday, while James Lackard was on the loose until he turned himself in to the NYPD on Thursday.

Hitting bottom in deli robbery

A Manhattan deli worker took a bullet to the buttocks during a struggle with an armed butthead who was trying to rob the place early Thursday, cops and sources said.

The 25-year-old worker — who goes by the name Ace — was working the counter at Wholesome Organic Convenience on Rivington Street in Manhattan when the gunman came in at around 1:22 a.m. looking to buy chips and candy, the worker told ABC 7.

But the suspect didn’t have any money — and he pulled a gun when the victim was distracted and said he was robbing the place, according to the victim’s account of the incident.

The goon then made his way around the counter, where he and the employee struggled with the gun before it went off, according to sources.

After the blast, the fiend ran off with an undetermined amount of stolen goods, sources said.

The worker was taken to Bellevue in stable condition, according to authorities.

The shooter was still on the loose Thursday night.

David DeTurris

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Jardiance 25mg	240 Tablets	$180.00
Mounjaro 2mg/3ml	1 Prefilled Pen 1 Month Supply (4 Doses)	$300.00
Xarelto 20mg	224 Tablets	$168.00
Farxiga 10mg	240 Tablets	$285.00
Januvia 100mg	240 Tablets	$200.00
Entresto 97mg+103mg	180 Tablets	$440.00
Viagra 100mg	100 Tablets	$100.00
Rybelsus 14mg	30 Tablets	$305.00
Kerendia 20mg	56 Tablets	$190.00
Tradjenta 5mg	240 Tablets	$240.00
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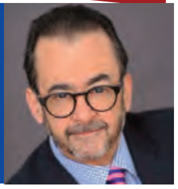

JAKE NOVAK

SATURDAY 5AM-6AM

SATURDAY 7AM-10AM

JAMES GOLDEN aka Bo Snerdley

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LARRY KUDLOW

SATURDAY 10AM-1PM

SATURDAY 1PM-2PM

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‘Tryst led to slay’: sources

A naked man arrested at the scene of a stabbing in a Long Island City apartment building may have been someone the victim met on social media for a sexual liaison, sources told The Post.

Bretford Brewer, 36, of Brooklyn, was arrested at the scene of the Aug. 1 slaying after cops responded to the Hayden high-rise just before 1 p.m. and found him naked with a fire extinguisher — spraying security cameras and attempting to break into an apartment, law-enforcement sources said.

He was charged Wednesday with murder and unlawful possession of a weapon in connection with the killing of 36-year-old Carlos Penzo, whom cops found sitting up in his bathtub with stab wounds to his head, face and chest.

Sources said a knife and a Taser were found lying in the slain man’s lap.

It was not immediately clear how the two men knew each other, but a source said it appears the victim may have met Brewer on social media for a hookup, and that a verbal argument preceded the homicide.

The building where the killing took place is where two-bedroom units rent for upwards of $6,000 per month.

Joe Marino and Chris Nesi

Firebug a ‘fiend’: feds

An unhinged arsonist admitted he torched a landmarked Bushwick church as prosecutors said he kept flists with categories like “kill them” and “rape him” as he plotted more fire attacks.

John Jones, 24, admitted to law enforcement Wednesday that he was responsible for the burning of the South Bushwick Reformed Church — setting off a three-alarm fire that gutted the 173-year-old church on June 19, according to a detention memo filed by federal prosecutors.

Jones was charged with arson and faces five to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Kyle Schnitzer

Macho Miami ‘vise’

RIKKI SCHLOTT

MIAMI has become the manosphere’s Mecca, with the biggest names pushing toxic masculinity — including Andrew Tate, Clavicular, Myron Gaines and Justin Waller — all congregating there.

However, in the first sign their dream may be souring, it’s also where Tate and his brother, Tristan, were arrested last month for potential extradition to face rape charges in the UK.

South Florida sources say the city’s a big draw for misogynist mega-voices due to its tolerance.

“Miami is the kind of place where you don’t get a second chance — you get 10 chances,” Greg Mirmelli, a realtor who recently helped Clavicular rent an apartment there, told The Post. “It’s very non-judgmental.”

It’s also a major hub for pornographic production and OnlyFans models, meaning there is a steady stream of young women in the area whom manosphere influencers love to feature in their podcasts and streams — yet also denigrate and harass, for content and clicks.

“There’s a lot of beautiful women, specifically sex workers, girls that do OnlyFans, or they’re in the sugar baby lifestyle, here in Miami,” resident and adult content creator Willow Ryder told The Post.

Penthouse porn

Miami has long been a home to aspiring bikini models and influencers, but its adult production industry got a boost in 2020, as Florida had less strict COVID restrictions than other states.

It’s become so widespread, local leases now frequently include clauses expressly banning the production of explicit material in luxury properties.

One influencer notorious for featuring adult entertainers in his streams is Clavicular, who made a name for himself as a “looksmaxxer” by preaching that appearance is everything and going to any length to improve his own looks — including allegedly taking meth to lose weight.

Clavicular, real name Braden Peters, has turned a Miami penthouse into his streaming quarters, where he films himself for hours a day before hitting the streets and clubs with a camera in tow. According to The Real Deal, he rented a five-bedroom, 6,500 square foot penthouse in Paramount Miami Worldcenter earlier this year.

Mirmelli, who represented both sides of the transaction, declined to share the rent but referred The Post to reporting estimating Clavicular is paying between $35,000 and $45,000 a month.

After fleeing sex trafficking charges in Europe, the Tate brothers used Miami as the launching pad for a social media revamp, foregrounding the city in their content.

Andrew frequently posted videos of himself roaming the streets and ranting about wealth and status at the waterfront.

Connecticut-born Myron Gaines — author of the book “Why Women Deserve Less” — hosts his “Fresh and Fit” podcast from his luxury penthouse.

Massive gathering

The show, which streams live at 11 p.m. three nights a week, typically features Gaines and another male co-host alongside a half-dozen women who are humiliated, questioned about their intimate lives and peppered with misogyny.

Female guests — many of whom are aspiring models, influencers and OnlyFans creators — accept mistreatment and insults in return for the free publicity they get, hoping Gaines’ 1.6 million subscribers on YouTube, mostly the young men they are aiming to reach, will then quietly follow them or subscribe to their OnlyFans accounts afterward.

In January, Miami was the setting of a massive meetup that included Andrew and Tristan Tate, Nick Fuentes, Clavicular, Sneako, Myron Gaines and Justin Waller. They posted group shots and livestreamed themselves having a night out on the town.

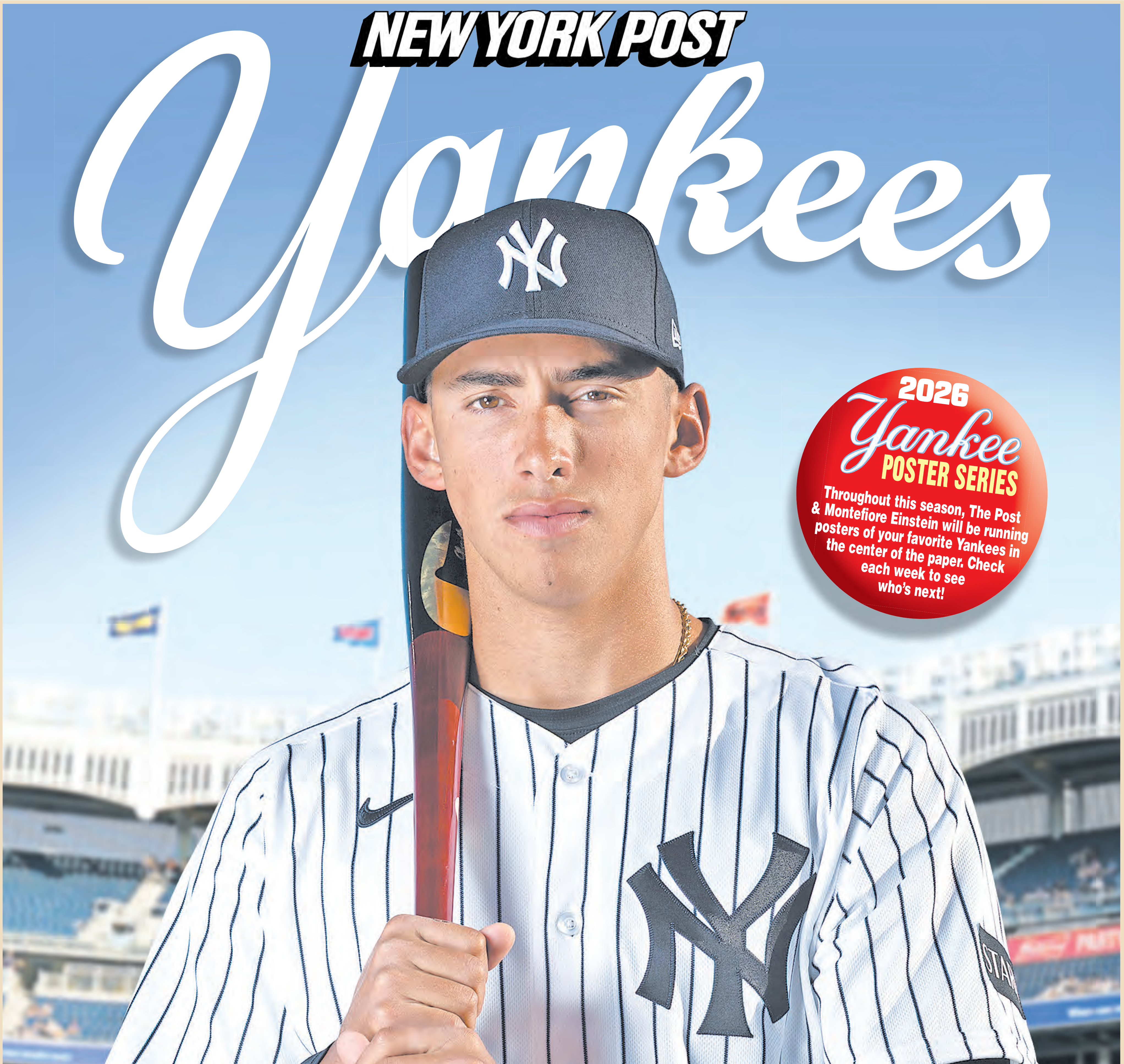
At the Miami Beach club Vendôme, the group drank and chatted up women — then shocked fellow club-goers by throwing up Nazi salutes while dancing to Kanye West’s song “Heil Hitler,” an incident that has since become emblematic of the entire scene.

The whole thing was presented as spontaneous but was, in reality, a massive planned publicity stunt meant to garner attention: influencers traveling around the world to gather, cameras always rolling and rented sprinter vans standing ready to chauffeur them around town.

BROS GONE WILD: Miami has become a central hub for toxic manosphere influencers such as Clavicular (top right) and the recently arrested Andrew Tate (left), who flock to the city to meet up and create content.

Toxic manosphere grip on South Fla.

clavicular/Kick; BACKGRID; Mdv Edwards - stock.adobe.com



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Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

Why are you pushing yourself so hard over a task that has zero meaning for you? Most likely it's because you feel an obligation to someone who has helped you in the past. So get on with it - and make sure you do an excellent job.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

If the cost of a creative project has ballooned to the extent that you are beginning to get worried maybe you need to take another look at it. It could be you started off with expectations that were way too high. Bring it down to earth a bit.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

If a partner or colleague does something today that seems designed to make life tough your first instinct will be to hit back at them. But is that really necessary? Whatever their motivation may be there's not actually much they can do to hurt you.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

If you are planning to get out and about over the weekend you must make sure you are up to date with all your tasks and chores. Make it your aim today to get on top of your workload - then go and have fun with a clear conscience.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

The sooner you realize that perfection is unattainable the sooner you can stop putting so much pressure on yourself and the sooner life will be full of laughter again. Strive hard by all means today but never forget you are human.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

It won't bother you in the slightest that some people disagree with your plans. Venus in the career area of your chart means you no longer care what friends and colleagues and even your employer might think. You know what's best for you personally.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You may owe someone a favor but don't go out of your way to repay it if by doing so your finances might suffer. Most likely they could not care less when, or even if, you pay them back, so why put all that pressure on yourself?

♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

If your sixth sense tells you to play along with someone's little game then do so and pretend you are as captivated by it as they are. It doesn't hurt to help a friend feel good about themselves, and you will feel good about yourself as well.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

With both Saturn and Neptune parked in your sign there seems to be a battle going on in your head between reason and inspiration. Do you stick rigidly to logic or do you let your imagination roam free? That is the question you must answer today.

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Although you may be inclined to stick with what you know and trust there will come a moment today when you realize that you have no choice but to try something new. Don't be scared - it's almost guaranteed to turn out well for you.

♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

If you make a hasty decision about your finances today you will probably regret it over the weekend, so abandon the idea that you've got to act quickly and instead let time do its work. Or are you okay with other people getting rich at your expense?

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)

It may be easy to blame others for not having reached your full potential but deep down you know the fault lies closer to home. The good news is you are about to get another chance to show your worth. Don't waste this one.

BIRTHDAY FRIDAY

The message of your birthday chart is that you need to come to terms with the fact that nothing stays the same for long and that change, while sometimes worrying, is often very good in the long-term. Embrace change with a passion this year.

Post Weather Report

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Friday

Today: Humid; a shower and t-storm in the p.m.. High 86 to 92.

Tonight: Humid; a heavy t-storm early. Low 72 to 78.

Saturday

Tomorrow: Humid; a stray afternoon t-storm. High 85 to 91.

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy and humid. Low 71 to 77.

Sunday

Mostly sunny; hot. High 87 to 93.

Evening
Clear. Low 70 to 76.

Monday

Very warm. High 86 to 92.

Evening
Partly cloudy. Low 71 to 77.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

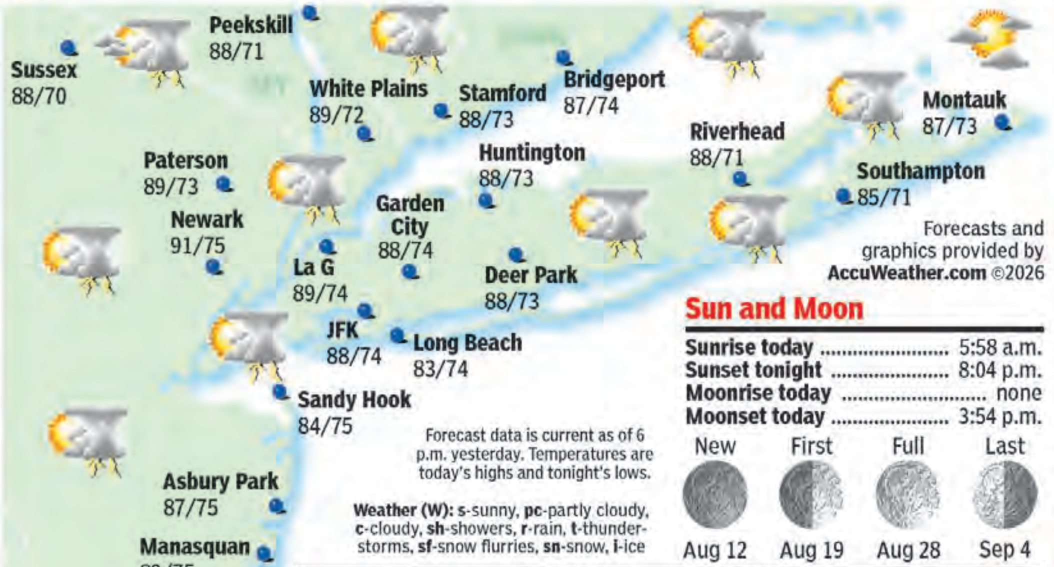
Temperature
High: 88, Low: 75, Mean: 82

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +4 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.15", Month: 2.22",
Year: 24.93", Normal year to date: 29.27"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 17
Total for the month (normal) 78 (73)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 838 (774)
Last year to date 839
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 91
UV index (for Fri.) .... 8 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 79%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Weeds, Grasses
AQI rating: (for Fri.).......................Moderate


Sussex 88/70
Peekskill 88/71
White Plains 89/72
Stamford 88/73
Bridgeport 87/74
Riverhead 88/71
Montauk 87/73
Paterson 89/73
Newark 91/75
Garden City 88/74
Huntington 88/73
Southampton 85/71
La G 89/74
Deer Park 88/73
JFK 88/74
Long Beach 83/74
Sandy Hook 84/75
Asbury Park 87/75
Manasquan 89/75
Toms River 92/73
Long Beach 86/74
Atlantic City 93/73
Ocean City 88/75

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Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

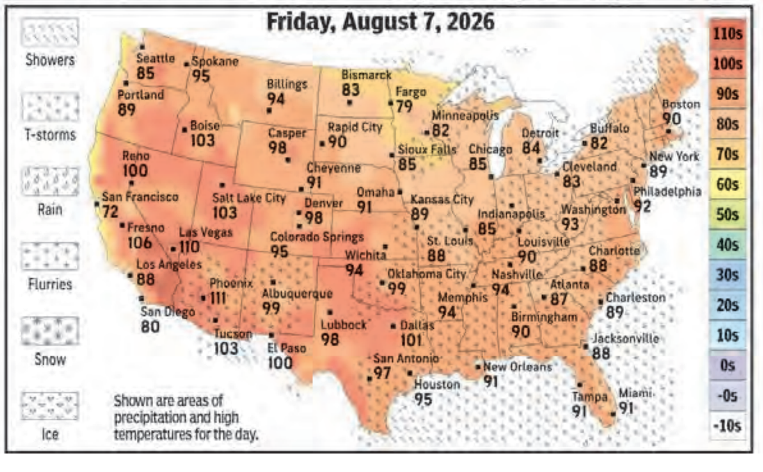
Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:58 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:04 p.m.
Moonrise today .... none
Moonset today .... 3:54 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 28	Sep 4

Friday, August 7, 2026


Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 85
Spokane 95
Portland 89
Billings 94
Bismarck 83
Fargo 79
Boise 103
Casper 98
Rapid City 90
Minneapolis 82
Reno 100
Cheyenne 91
Sioux Falls 85
Chicago 85
Detroit 84
Buffalo 82
Boston 90
New York 89
Cleveland 83
San Francisco 72
Salt Lake City 103
Denver 98
Omaha 91
Kansas City 89
Indianapolis 85
Washington 93
Philadelphia 92
Fresno 106
Las Vegas 110
Colorado Springs 95
Wichita 94
St. Louis 88
Louisville 90
Charlotte 88
Los Angeles 88
Phoenix 111
Albuquerque 99
Oklahoma City 99
Nashville 94
Memphis 94
Atlanta 87
Charleston 89
San Diego 80
Lubbock 98
Dallas 101
Birmingham 90
Tucson 103
El Paso 100
San Antonio 97
Houston 95
New Orleans 91
Jacksonville 88
Tampa 91
Miami 91
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	2:43a	3:14p	3:51a	4:23p
Fire Island	2:37a	3:39p	3:52a	4:51p
Hempstead	6:26a	6:54p	7:42a	8:09p
Huntington	6:33a	6:59p	7:41a	8:07p
Jones Inlet	2:27a	2:58p	3:35a	4:07p
Montauk Point	3:59a	4:53p	5:09a	5:58p
Port Washington	6:22a	6:51p	7:38a	8:07p
Sandy Hook	2:47a	3:18p	3:55a	4:27p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	86/72/t	85/70/t
Danbury	88/71/t	87/69/t
Glens Falls	86/69/t	83/67/t
Gr Barrington	87/69/t	86/68/t
Kingston	89/71/t	87/69/t
Liberty	84/67/t	82/64/t
Monticello	85/67/t	83/66/t
Newburgh	89/71/t	89/71/t
Poughkeepsie	89/70/t	89/68/t
Saratoga Springs	88/70/t	83/70/t
Stroudsburg	88/68/t	87/67/t
Torrington	88/68/t	88/69/t
Syracuse	86/70/t	85/68/t

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	94/75/s	97/82/s
Baghdad	118/90/pc	117/90/s
Beijing	97/75/t	89/66/s
Berlin	73/54/pc	77/57/s
Cairo	98/77/pc	97/76/pc
Dublin	72/53/pc	72/59/sh
Geneva	86/61/s	89/62/s
Hong Kong	93/83/s	95/85/pc
Jerusalem	85/69/s	86/70/s
Kabul	90/67/pc	89/67/pc
London	78/54/s	81/59/pc
Madrid	102/73/s	99/71/s
Mexico City	74/57/r	74/57/r
Montreal	85/71/pc	83/69/t
Moscow	86/62/r	77/56/sh
Paris	81/57/s	88/63/pc
Rio de Janeiro	90/72/s	80/74/pc
Rome	93/73/s	92/71/s
Sydney	64/43/s	65/49/pc
Tokyo	94/79/pc	95/77/pc

POSTOPINION

Dem Defector

Why I'm boosting GOP's Rogers in Michigan

JULIAN EPSTEIN

PRESIDENT John F. Kennedy, in his inaugural address, may have said it best: "In the past, those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside." It was a warning to those who tolerate the rise of authoritarian communism that they will inevitably end up next on the dinner menu.

Michigan Democrats, in nominating Abdul El-Sayed for Senate on Tuesday, seem to be riding the back of that tiger. But not me. I'm climbing off the beast.

After decades of giving my all for Democratic candidates, this fall I will support — and contribute to — Mike Rogers, Michigan's GOP Senate nominee. And I'll do everything I can to make sure other Democrats follow.

With the exception of Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman, my party's leaders have sought to appease the dangerous faction rising in our midst. Weak figures like Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer are spouting empty clichés — "We are a big-tent party" — while abdicating their moral and political responsibilities.

Democrats aren't coddling mere socialists; they're getting in bed with a nihilistic, deconstructionist brand of third-worldism that seeks the elimination of prisons, policing, borders, the Senate, the presidency, the Supreme Court and democratic free markets. It's a worldview that aligns with genocidal jihadist movements like Hamas.

A generation ago, the left would've recognized this cadre as Trojan horse doing the bidding of our adversaries. But not today. And as working-class voters flee an increasingly toxic Democratic brand, the party's newfound embrace of anti-American extremists is likely to produce big losses nationally — and a civil war within.

In Michigan in particular, Rogers will frame a devastating portrait of El-Sayed that will further damage the party's deteriorating image. El-Sayed parrots Sen. Bernie Sanders' delusion that attaches no importance to generating wealth — and only cares about redistributing it.

He expresses sympathy for Mideastern terrorist movements that masquerade as liberation efforts, giving cover to terror attacks on Jewish synagogues in the US ("hurt people hurt people") and going to absurd lengths to avoid offending supporters of Iran's slain Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He doesn't believe the planet's only Jewish state has a right to exist.

US SENATE
ABDUL
US SENATE
MONEY OUT OF POLITICS
MONEY IN YOUR POCKET
FOR ALL

Treacherous trio: Sanders, El-Sayed and AOC are doing Democrats harm.

Chris duMond/Shutterstock

Hasan Piker, his principal campaign surrogate, blames the US for 9/11 and professes his love for China's madman dictator Mao Zedong, who slaughtered millions of his own people.

Democrats can't run from this lunacy in November. The "we are a big tent" evasion will sound like what it is: a craven concession to extremism in hopes of rebuilding a political party that's fallen into decadence.

The enraged exuberance exhibited at El-Sayed's Keffiyeh-laden watch party Tuesday night blinds the asylum's inmates to post-election reality. After all, El-Sayed received support just 12.5% of Michigan's registered voters — mostly from the radical professional class of white college graduates — while underperforming in black, brown and working-class districts.

This summer's third-worldist wave is the tiger Kennedy warned of. It's a recipe for moral decay — and for political suicide.

Democrats lost in 2024 because they were too far to the left of the median American voter. Now they're racing even further in that disastrous direction.

Kennedy's adage suggests the only way to address extremism is to defeat it. Fetterman, and a few other Dems like New Jersey Rep. Josh Gottheimer and consultant James Carville, seem to get that — and they're warning of a coming intraparty civil war. Some in Michigan are hinting at mass party defections in November.

And El-Sayed's new prominence means the bleeding won't stop. Democrats in many districts will be forced on the campaign trail to distance themselves from El-Sayed or denounce him — and every one of their comments will write another permission slip for party defections come fall.

To arrest this freefall, Democratic leaders must do more than just tell the extremists to find another party; they must also admit that post-modern liberalism is failing. The more we spend on the welfare state, it seems, the worse the outcomes.

We spend over $40,000 per student in New York City public schools, and few can read or do math. The politics of identity grievance gives no one greater agency or know-how to succeed; it's black-pilling an entire generation with a victim mindset that will only hold them back.

Perversely, the Democratic Socialists argue we need more of what's failing. But America's future depends on teaching our people how to build, not how to take from others or peddle whining complaints. Until Democrats understand that, the defections will keep on coming.

Julian Epstein is the former chief counsel for the House Judiciary Democrats.

THE WEEK IN WHOPPERS

A diary of disinformation and the delusional

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

"(We'll) target New Yorkers (at city-run groceries with) . . . a library card-esque thing."

—Jeanny Pak, interim NYC Economic Development Corp. boss, July 27

vs.

"You do not need an ID to shop."

—Mayor Mamdani, Monday

We say: Will Team Mamdani please make up its mind? New Yorkers would love to know if their tax dollars will be used to subsidize out-of-towners at Mamdani Marts — that is, *if* they ever open.

THIS PRAISE

"(Hamas') fight comes from deep love and tenderness."

—DSA International Committee member Mirah Wood, in a 2024 recording that resurfaced this week

We say: Sure, people motivated by "love and tenderness" always chop off babies' heads, rape women and butcher families, as Hamas fighters did in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. Yoikes! And worse than Wood's sick spin: Her Democratic Socialists of America are taking over the Democratic Party.

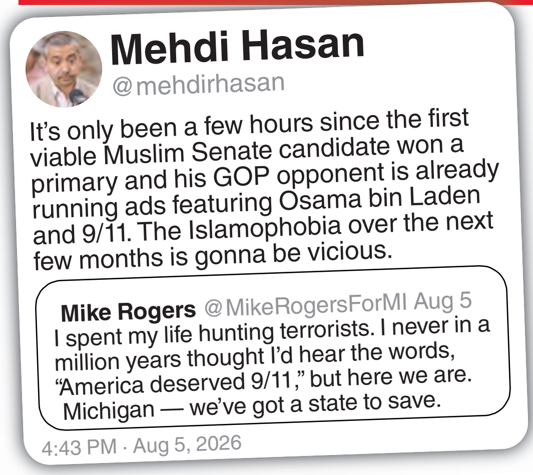
THESE DEMANDS

"Abolish the Senate. Abolish the Pentagon . . . Abolish it all! (Prisons are) first on the list."

—Sen. Bernie Sanders' ex-press secretary Briahna Joy Gray, Tuesday

We say: Asked by Piers Morgan if she'd defund or abolish the police, Gray filibustered before finally saying, "Affirmatively yes!" She then targeted the Senate, the Pentagon and prisons for abolition as well. Is there any better example of the kind of anarchy Sanders-ite lefties are trying to sow?

THIS WHINE



Mehdi Hasan
@mehdirhasan

It's only been a few hours since the first viable Muslim Senate candidate won a primary and his GOP opponent is already running ads featuring Osama bin Laden and 9/11. The Islamophobia over the next few months is gonna be vicious.

Mike Rogers @MikeRogersForMI Aug 5
I spent my life hunting terrorists. I never in a million years thought I'd hear the words, "America deserved 9/11," but here we are. Michigan — we've got a state to save.

4:43 PM · Aug 5, 2026

We say: Sorry, but it's not Islamophobic to note that Michigan Democrats' just-chosen candidate for US Senate, Abdul El-Sayed, has been regularly stumping with radical brocaster Hasan Piker — who has literally said, "America deserved 9/11." Michigan voters have every right to ask whose side El-Sayed is on.

— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

NEW YORK POST
America's oldest continuously published daily newspaper

Iran's Cyberattacks

Federal authorities aren't ready to officially blame Iran for the recent cyberattacks on US water systems, but Tehran's fingerprints are all over them — and Washington will have to respond seriously, though perhaps not openly.

We'll chalk President Trump's dismissal of Iran's culpability down to not wanting to complicate talks to get the Strait of Hormuz opened up, plus knowing that a US response can be as "deniable" as Iran's attacks.

So far, 12 US states have reported potential strikes on their water-distribution and wastewater systems, per ABC News, including more than 30 in Minnesota alone. Drinking water remains safe, but several utilities saw disruptions including a "loss of pressure and flooding," the FBI reports.

Top suspect is the Iranian-linked hacking group Cyberav3ngers. Why is it the top suspect? Per the cybersecurity company Tenable, Cyberav3ngers announced on the dark web soon after US-Israel airstrikes began at the end of February that it planned to retaliate against US sites, and the feds say Iran stepped up its cyberattacks at the time.

Trump's dismissal of an Iranian link sounds more flippant than serious: "I would blame it on Minnesota," he said, and its "corrupt governor." Huh? Bad as Gov. Tim Walz is, the idea that Minnesota is *behind* the attacks is preposterous.

Yet handling these attacks isn't all that straightforward: Our side doesn't want to publicize any info that might make future attacks easier. All-out sabotage of utilities, if successful, could have devastating results, including even mass civilian casualties.

But if Iran were capable of *that*, we'd be hearing far worse news than some Minnesotans having to boil water as a precaution.

Meanwhile, it makes perfect sense for any US cyber-counter-attack to be kept under wraps too — responding in kind.

That said, attacks on purely *civilian* facilities are yet another sign of how evil and untrustworthy Iran's rulers are, as we've warned repeatedly — and so an added reason for caution in negotiations *and* ample cause to ratchet up military and economic pressure on the regime. However this current campaign ends, freeing the world of the monsters who rule Iran should be a US priority until that country is free.

Day Care as Good as NY's Roads

The price New Yorkers will have to pay for Mayor Mamdani's "free" child care keeps growing. The latest: Where he put the cost to taxpayers at $6 billion a year for universal care (for kids as young as 6 weeks), an outside estimate just came in at $9 billion.

Analysts with the Center for NYC Affairs estimate that it will cost 50% more than advertised when it's fully up and running — maybe even more. And the reasons are self-evidently true: The city will have to pay workers *far* more than Mamdani has estimated.

Partly, that's supply and demand: You have to pay more to tempt thousands more workers into a job that involves changing diapers and wiping butts.

Partly, realistic politics: The United Federation of Teachers aims to unionize every last day-care worker, and the UFT is *great* at getting its people paid more — that's a huge reason why the city now spends over $40,000 on every kid in its public schools.

It's already public record that the $73 million, two-year 2,000-seat pilot program will cost taxpayers an absurd $36,500 per child, with plans to grow to 12,000 seats at a cost of $425 million, or over $35,000 per tot.

Now a level-headed analysis says the bill will run 50% higher, which we calculate means more than $50,000 a head — even more bloated than the public schools.

Finding quality, affordable child care is a major struggle for the city's working parents — but waving the socialist magic wand doesn't actually make it happen.

Indeed, given the state of the city's *other* public services (from its terrible roads to its failure-factory public schools) parents should worry that Mamdani-care will prove as low-quality as it is fundamentally unaffordable.

Journalism in the First Degree?

Jason Arday has quit his Cambridge professorship, but the affair of the fabulist academic won't be over until many questions are answered — including how British cops came to treat Journalism 101 as a crime.

The Metropolitan Police spent months investigating reporter Jack Grove after he emailed questions to the prof.

Long before the plagiarism allegations and other issues went public, Grove was working on a story for Times Higher Education about the academic record of Cambridge University's youngest-ever black professor.

Questions that the authorities somehow determined to be racially motivated harassment, even telling Grove to stop contacting Arday because the questions had impacted the professor's "mental health." But they didn't tell the reporter he was actually under investigation until they called him recently to say the case had been closed.

This was far from the only intimidation on Arday's behalf: The school hired high-powered attorneys to threaten other academics who flagged his apparent plagiarism; media implied the critics were simply racists.

Yes, the all-out defense eventually became untenable, but the cops' squelching of Grove might have quashed the whole thing — and who knows what *other* British journalism has been suppressed? And America's not immune: Uncle Sam did all manner of truth-suppression during COVID, just for starters.

Letting any government official claim the power to tell anyone to stop asking questions is a giant step toward tyranny.

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letters@nypost.com

El-Sayed's Win for the Left: The Dems Are Finished

THE ISSUE: Far-left US Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed clinching Michigan's Democratic nomination.

•To my Democratic friends: It's time to rid your party of the Democratic Socialists of America and its allies before it's too late ("Final nail in coffin," Issac Schorr, Aug. 6).

Abdul El-Sayed's victory in Michigan shows the power of the DSA, even in a purple state.

This is not the party of Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy. It's time for former President Barack Obama, Sen. Chuck Schumer and the rest of the Democratic establishment to grow a spine and show these radicals the door, before it's too late.

Kenneth Fitzgerald
Hicksville

•One need only look at Russia to see what Marxism brings. Players like Abdul El-Sayed and Mayor Mamdani led by Coach Bernie Sanders and foul-mouthed cheerleader Hasan Piker have an agenda that includes the end of capitalism, and the elimination of Israel. If Main Street America doesn't wake up by November, it may happen.

Mel Young
West Dover, Vt.

Abdul El-Sayed

•FDR stood up to Hitler. Harry Truman stood up to Stalin. JFK stood up to Nikita Khrushchev. They were Democrats.

Democrats today won't even stand up to the radicals in their party who are openly anti-police, antisemitic, anti-Constitution and anti-American sovereignty. They are committing political suicide.

Joe Zeloof
Hamilton, NJ

•The Democrats are seeing their Biden-era policies come home to roost. In opening the floodgates to illegal immigration, they created a voting population that votes radical left and has no sense of America's history or the source of its greatness.

Democrats — and not Republicans, as they intended — are losing their hold on American voters. Be careful what you wish for.

Helaine Smith
Manhattan

•It is a great day for Michigan Republican Senate candidate Mike Rogers, because the Democrats have shot themselves in the foot.

With El-Sayed's nomination, a Democratic Senate seat is likely to flip, making a Democratic takeover of the majority all but impossible. Michigan isn't Massachusetts or California — it's a swing state. General election voters include large numbers of independents. Many will vote for Rogers or stay home.

Oren Spiegler
Peters Township, Pa.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

The WNBA Is Way Out of Touch

THE ISSUE: Sophie Cunningham insisting it's "common sense" to exclude trans athletes from women's sports.

•WNBA player Sophie Cunningham is being vilified by the rest of the league and even the fans for saying trans women shouldn't compete in women's sports ("Sophie's choice to speak up," Kirsten Fleming, Aug. 4).

I can't believe this issue exists, but in these times, lefty lunatics will criticize anything that makes sense.

Warren Goldfein
Mount Arlington, NJ

•The WNBA seems to have mastered the fine art of shooting itself in the foot. A league that struggled for decades to attract mainstream attention suddenly found itself enjoying soaring TV ratings, higher salaries and unprecedented public interest. Instead of fully embracing the moment, too many players project petty jealousy. The league seems determined to cling to its underdog identity just as it finally has a chance to outgrow it.

Professional sports exist to entertain customers. If the WNBA wants to be treated as a major league, it needs to act like one. This latest foray into gender politics won't help.

Scott Thompson
Bloomington, Ind.

•The radical left has become totally out of touch with reality and refuses to admit the danger and unfairness of biological men playing in women's sports. It takes courage but more women need to stand up to them and fight for their rights.

JoAnn Frank
Clearwater, Fla.

E-MAIL: letters@nypost.com or **WRITE** to The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letters will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.

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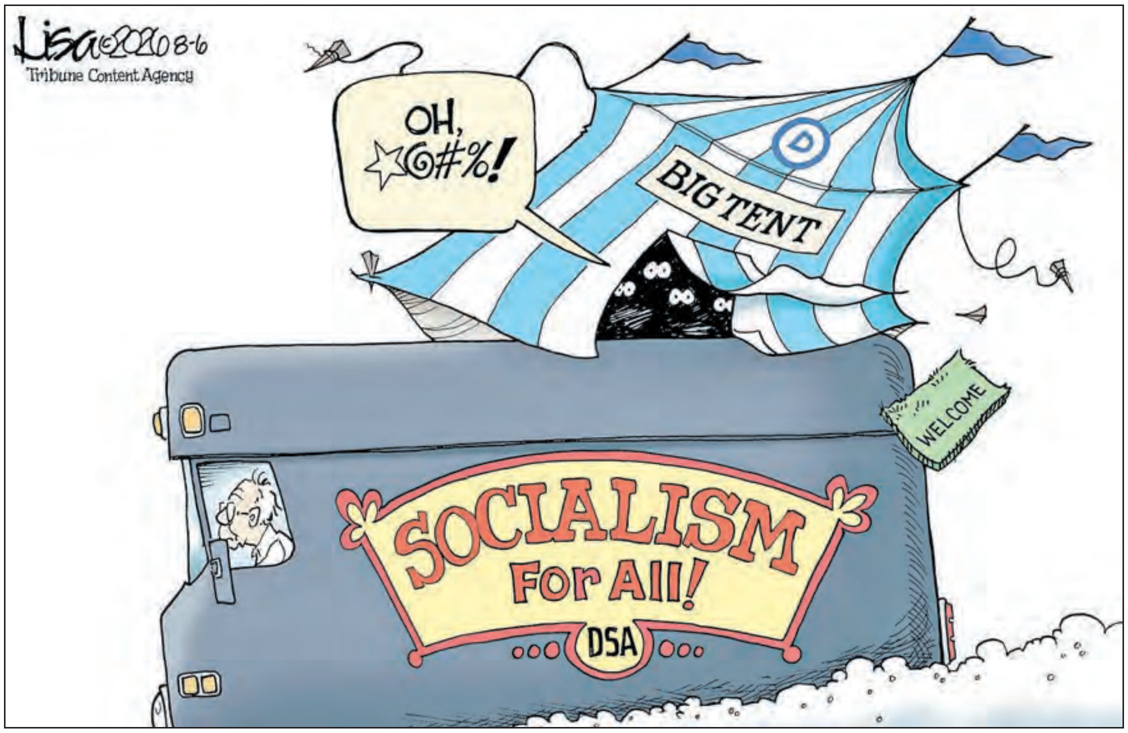

UK FELL FOR BLM GRIFT

BRENDAN O'NEILL

SO he's gone: Jason Arday, Cambridge University's scandal-ridden professor, has resigned. The "rock-star academic" famous for his long hair and tall tales has fallen on his sword following media exposés of his plagiarized PhD dissertation and his fabulist claims of racial oppression.

Yet while the disgraced dreadlocked prof might be shuffling off into ignominy, this disaster is far from over. We need to ask why so many prestigious institutions — not only Cambridge but the entirety of English academia — fell for this man's grift.

The real story here is less Arday's BS than the fact that so many ostensibly clever people were sucked in by it — the inevitable consequence of the intellectual class' craven cave to the cult of BLM. Arday was what came of the Western elites' sacrifice of excellence at the altar of white guilt. And it will take more than his resignation to undo the society-wrecking legacy of the BLM derangement.

The Arday scandal really is mad. It started with newspaper reports that he had plagiarized around 100 passages in his PhD dissertation.

Then questions were asked — finally — about some of the wacky claims he's made in recent years. He once said he had run 600 miles in six days, which would rank him among humanity's most gifted endurance runners.

He claims to have overcome nonverbal autism and a brain tumor before soaring to the dizzying heights of a Cambridge professorship. He yapped about suffering insane levels of persecution, from being confronted by a racist nutter with a knife to intercepting a pig's head addressed to his parents' home. Of course not one sliver of evidence was found for these self-pitying yarns.

Even now he's carrying on with the victim shtick, bleating in his resignation letter about being the target of an "unrelenting" crusade of vilification. Give it up, pal. The race card no longer trumps the truth.

However will Cambridge cope without Arday's academic insights, which included claiming that Britpop was racist and that Paul Simon is guilty of the sin of "cultural appropriation"? That really was the kind of critical-race drivel he spouted. Yet somehow it was enough to propel him to academic fame.

Why did so many big brains and media influencers gush over this bloke with an iffy origin story and nothing of substance to say? It's because they're all under the spell of BLM. The nasty new racialism that depicts whites as privileged and blacks as victims colonized Britain's chattering classes just as much as it did America's.

The madness of self-hatred descended like a plague on our island nation. Shortly after the death of George Floyd, the Church of England called on "white Christians" to "repent of our prejudices."

Museums frantically hid their "problematic artifacts" — per the BBC, any object that was "stolen, looted or removed by the British from [its] place of origin." Universities fell to the demented cult of "decolonization," which involved removing Dead White European Males from the syllabus and inserting obscure Afro-nationalist authors instead. Cambridge itself hit the headlines just a month after Floyd's death when Dr. Priyamvada Gopal, one of its most celebrated academics, tweeted "Abolish whiteness."

The post-Floyd racial hysteria had a direct and dire impact on educational standards. The Times of London found that from 2020 to 2025, 16% of black students accepted into Oxford University had failed to achieve the necessary grades, but only 6% of white kids. Numerous universities offered "reduced entry requirements" to non-white students.

Even the government has thrown academic rigor on the bonfire of white self-loathing: A bombshell piece in the Spectator this year reported that the Treasury has removed the numerical reasoning test from its screening process because non-white applicants were more likely to fail it. Take that in. The Treasury — which oversees our entire economy — dispensed with basic math in the name of diversity.

As the Spectator put it, we witnessed the "mental breakdown of the British state" following "the death of George Floyd." It was a moral one too.

The BLM psychosis was a war on the West — on our history, our culture, our standards — dressed up as "anti-racism." And Arday was simply a beneficiary of that bizarre moment. Our societies instituted self-loathing among white youths while lowering the educational bar for black youths — meaning both were sold down the river.

So farewell, Professor Arday. Now let's fix the unholy mess that self-hating liberals have left us.

Brendan O'Neill is chief political writer for spiked.

GOP Can't Afford To Skip 'Burritogate'

KAROL MARKOWICZ

HOW much should a burrito cost? That question has sparked an all-out social-media war on the right this week, dividing influencers, media figures and even Vice President JD Vance into angry factions at odds over affordability — this election season's hot-button issue.

It started when podcaster Matt Walsh posted a complaint about "insane" grocery prices, urging Republicans to "end the stupid foreign wars and focus on this issue." Turning Point USA spokesman Andrew Kolvet agreed, adding that one of his group's college-student members had provided "his take on affordability: 'A burrito shouldn't cost $20.'"

That's when podcast producer Joel Berry pointed out that his wife "made homemade burritos for our family of 8 and it cost less than $20 total for everyone . . . I'm beginning to think the affordability crisis is really an 'I don't know how to cook' crisis."

That set off a nasty old-school flame war. More contentious than the war with Iran — and very possibly just a proxy fight for it — burrito-gate is dividing Republicans at a time when leftists are veering into full-bore communism as the solution for rising costs.

And no one seems to be interested in the fact that food prices have actually gone *down* as part of the average American family's take-home income, from around 42% in 1901 to 9.7% today. Or in reflecting on the core economic truth that "foreign wars" have nothing to do with the inflation that spiked under Joe Biden and still plagues us — or with leftist policies, like an ever-increasing minimum wage, that made fast food so much more expensive. Bad ideas have consequences, and a costlier burrito is one of them.

It doesn't even seem to matter that no one can pinpoint the existence of this rage-inducing $20 burrito. Many noted that a fully loaded steak burrito at Chipotle with, yes, guacamole, comes in at under $17, even in Manhattan — and that you can get three Cheesy Double Beef Burritos at Taco Bell for around $15. Or, as others pointed out, that cash-strapped young people can buy an eight-pack of burritos at any supermarket for just a few bucks.

Nobody wanted to hear it. Following all the back-and-forth reminded me of the old canard that wives only want their husbands to *listen* when they complain, not to actually suggest solutions.

Berry, of course, was correct to say that cooking at home is far more economical than eating out — and that the sooner young people accept this reality and learn to cook for themselves, the better. But it's also true that many Americans, young ones in particular, really are in bad financial straits, and they're right to feel that an occasional restaurant burrito shouldn't be an extravagance.

I vividly remember, when I was a financially struggling 20-something, my bitter response at being encouraged to cook at home by older and wiser friends. It felt unfair: Everybody else could go out to eat, why couldn't I?

My perception of being left out, the feeling that I deserved to have what my peers had, was acute — and that sense is only heightened today, when everyone on social media seems to be out there swigging champagne on yachts while I'm stuck browning ground beef for my homemade Tex-Mex meal.

When everything feels tight, when you have no savings and little splurges like a burrito make a real dent in your disposable income, it doesn't help to be told that Americans are in fact richer than ever, or that frequent dining out has never been the norm, let alone that needlessly pricey DoorDash delivery.

> ‘Bad ideas have consequences, and a costlier burrito is one of them.’

Yet it's possible to care very much about how rising costs are hitting the younger generation — while still pointing out that frugality has long been the norm for those just starting out, and is worth encouraging. As Berry wrote in a later tweet, every solution that would truly impact affordability — from cutting entitlements to decrease the federal debt, to ditching the minimum wage — is portrayed as "cruel." Even his advice to cook at home was called "out of touch." Our bickering has us falling into the left's trap.

Republicans must get serious about countering the leftists' siren-song promises of free stuff to a generation that's genuinely hurting. And they must take the time to explain how the previous round of free stuff is what got us into this expensive mess in the first place. Tone-policing those trying to offer solutions isn't the way.

There are policy solutions that can address the high cost of food, but none of them come from an economic system that has failed every *previous* time it's been tried. Socialism won't actually give us free burritos.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A$_1$	I$_1$	O$_1$	T$_1$	D$_2$	N$_1$	B$_3$		RACK 1
A$_1$	O$_1$	Y$_4$	S$_1$	D$_2$	R$_1$	W$_4$		RACK 2
A$_1$	E$_1$	O$_1$	R$_1$	F$_4$	R$_1$	B$_3$	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
A$_1$	A$_1$	I$_1$	Y$_4$	L$_1$	M$_3$	G$_2$	2nd Letter Double	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 226

FOUR RACK TOTAL ______
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

B$_3$	A$_1$	N$_1$	D$_2$	I$_1$	T$_1$	O$_1$	RACK 1 =	60
D$_2$	R$_1$	O$_1$	W$_4$	S$_1$	Y$_4$		RACK 2 =	13
F$_4$	O$_1$	R$_1$	B$_3$	E$_1$	A$_1$	R$_1$	RACK 3 =	86
M$_3$	Y$_4$	A$_1$	L$_1$	G$_2$	I$_1$	A$_1$	RACK 4 =	67
PAR SCORE 150-160							TOTAL	226

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 5 3
♡ A 9 6 2
◇ J 8 6
♣ Q 10 3

WEST
♠ K 7 2
♡ Q 10 7 5 4
◇ 7 3 2
♣ 9 4

EAST
♠ 9 8 6 4
♡ K 8
◇ A Q 10 9
♣ 7 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A J 10
♡ J 3
◇ K 5 4
♣ A K J 8 2

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♡ 5

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Unlucky Louie has a big family and a wife with a talent for spending money.

"Her philosophy," Louie told me, "is that it's not how much you spend, it's how much you save. Yesterday she saved $150 by not going into Target to buy deodorant."

Louie could easily save that much every week in his penny game. In today's deal, West led the five of hearts against 3NT. Dummy played low, and Louie, East, won with the king. Declarer would have done best to rise with dummy's ace, but he survived anyway when Louie mechanically returned the eight of hearts: jack, queen, ace.

South next led a spade to his jack. West took the king, but then South had eight tricks and was sure to score his king of diamonds.

Louie lost a chance to save 600 points. At Trick Two he must shift to the queen of diamonds. If South plays the king (to play low won't help) and goes to dummy to finesse in spades, West wins and leads another diamond, and Louie takes three diamond tricks for down one.

Word Force

CHALKBOARD

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 21** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Yesterday's word:
CANDLEWICK

ailed
alien
ankle
caked
caned
cawed
clank
clean
click
clink
dance
decal
ideal
inked
knead
laced
laden
lance
liked
lined
naked
waken
waned
weald
widen
wield
wince
wined

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DANA WHITE (BUSINESSMAN) **Solution: 6 letters**

G	F	M	C	G	R	E	G	O	R	S	L	A	P	U
A	N	I	A	R	T	S	L	B	S	J	O	S	E	L
R	U	I	G	E	A	A	S	E	L	U	R	A	O	T
E	T	D	L	H	I	L	N	X	S	M	Y	G	N	I
H	I	H	I	T	T	I	L	S	N	A	F	E	W	M
T	T	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	L	V	E	A
A	O	A	N	U	N	E	N	I	T	A	O	S	I	T
E	M	N	B	D	A	C	R	G	T	S	Y	A	V	E
W	A	A	E	N	T	R	E	W	O	P	D	L	R	X
Y	H	X	N	R	E	T	O	M	O	R	P	T	E	E
A	I	C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	S	H	I	P	R
M	E	R	A	W	G	G	E	O	R	G	E	S	Y	C
T	A	B	M	O	C	E	G	A	I	D	A	N	A	I
C	O	N	T	A	C	T	R	E	H	C	E	E	P	S
N	O	G	A	T	C	O	W	Ⓤ	Ⓕ	Ⓒ	N	P	S	E

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Aidan, Anne, Arts, Athlete, Audience, Business, Championship, Coach, Combat, Contact, ESPN, Exercise, Fans, Fighting, Floyd, Georges, Gyms, Jose, Las Vegas, Manager, Martial, Mayweather, McGregor, Meta, Mixed, Octagon, Pay-per-view, Power, President, Promoter, Rules, Slap, Speech, Stella, Talent, Tito, UFC, Ultimate, Ware, Weight, Wrestling

Yesterday's Answer: Seaport

For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

www.SudokuWiki.org

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 42

© Syndicated Puzzles

Very Easy #7,363

				7		2	1	6
	6		8		9		7	
3		2		1				
		7	2		3	5		
	1			5			3	
		8	1		7	9		
				3		4		8
	4		7		6		2	
9	5	1		8				

Difficult #7,153

					1			2
2	4	9		8			3	
				9				
9	3	6		7				8
				4				
5				2		9	1	6
				5				
	2			1		8	6	7
7			6					

Quick Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					18					■	19			
20			■	21				■	■	22				■
23			24	■	25			26	27					28
29				30	■	■	■	31			■	32		
■	■	■	33		34	35	36			■	37			
■	■	38								39			■	■
40	41			■	42							■	■	■
43			■	44			■	■	■	45		46	47	48
49			50				51	52	53	■	54			
■	55				■	■	56			57	■	58		
59				■	60	61					62			
63				■	64				■	65				
66				■	67				■	68				

Across

1 Sheer
6 Walrus kin
10 Waffle over in the freezer aisle
14 Bête ___
15 Shoestring
16 Infuriate
17 "Our previous recommendation stands"?
19 Explore Mars, perhaps
20 Ninth letter of the Hebrew alphabet
21 Reaction to lions and tigers and bears
22 Vein of ore
23 Genesis locale
25 "My peacock's tail is the best!," e.g.?
29 Genesis locale
31 Accessory often tipped or used for tips
32 "Dee-lish!"
33 French bean
37 "We are not alone" subj.
38 Features of some detours, or what four answers in this puzzle need in order to match their clues?
40 "Shoo!"
42 "Call Me" band
43 Bud
44 Refuse to settle, perhaps
45 Sticker
49 Record of one's attempts to enter a hedge maze?
54 Mountain lion
55 "Yer killin' me!"
56 Utah city near two national parks
58 Fishing pole
59 Drops from above
60 Promise made by a serial dater who aspires to commit?
63 Early Bond foe
64 Actor Auberjonois
65 :-(
66 Fortuneteller
67 Spanish kiss
68 Touchscreen tappers

Down

1 Marries
2 Home of the El Greco Museum
3 Pitching
4 Pitching stat
5 Make over
6 Substance celebrated by the Sloomoo Institute
7 Smooth course
8 Best club in Vegas?
9 Was up
10 Bad move
11 Peace offerings?
12 Buckle
13 The Grand ___ Opry
18 TV broadcast band
22 Allow
24 Like a 2024 Blake Snell game
26 Sticker
27 Despised
28 French friend
30 Steamed
34 Symbolic puzzle that dates to the Middle Ages
35 Key
36 Cybersecurity exec
37 Very much inclined
38 Source of some pink seasoning
39 Ramadan-ending holiday, informally
40 Cocoa scrub venue
41 Auto maintenance
44 Transgression
46 Respectful dip
47 Virtually indifferent?
48 "The People's Princess"
50 Show respect for
51 Signs
52 Shakespeare lover
53 Former NBA star Ming
57 Jewish rite
59 Hwys.
60 Sphere consulted by a 66-Across
61 Born abroad
62 CPR expert

E	A	C	H	■	P	I	L	L	A	R	■	H	E	E
A	L	O	O	■	A	S	I	A	G	O	■	U	M	S
S	P	I	L	L	T	H	E	Ⓣ	Ⓔ	Ⓐ	■	Ⓜ	E	T
T	E	N	S	E	S	■	■	O	D	D	S	A	R	E
■	■	S	T	A	Y	D	R	Y	■	G	E	N	I	E
H	O	L	E	Ⓢ	■	Ⓠ	Ⓤ	Ⓐ	Ⓓ	A	X	E	L	■
O	D	O	R	■	R	E	F	■	E	M	T	■	■	■
P	E	T	■	S	A	D	F	A	C	E	■	S	P	A
■	■	■	A	P	T	■	I	C	K	■	G	U	T	S
■	S	A	V	E	S	Ⓟ	Ⓐ	Ⓡ	■	Ⓣ	Ⓨ	P	O	S
A	T	R	I	A	■	O	N	E	M	O	R	E	■	■
B	A	C	A	R	D	I	■	■	A	W	A	R	D	S
A	C	T	■	G	A	N	G	B	U	S	T	E	R	S
S	K	I	■	U	N	T	I	E	D	■	E	G	A	N
E	S	C	■	N	E	S	T	L	E	■	S	O	B	S

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Dow Jones Indust. Avg. **Down 464.02** 53,885.10

Business

Nasdaq Comp. **Down 15.09** 26,348.35

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Streak over

The Dow's five-day winning streak came to an end Thursday as stocks fell in a jittery session amid doubts about the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Oil prices, which had plunged earlier in the week, settled up by more than $3 a barrel.

TV cap lifted

The Federal Communications Commission voted to rescind the rule that bars local broadcast-station owners from reaching more than 39% of TV households in a move that could spark industry consolidation.

Fox hardball

Fox Corp. won't amend its existing rights deal to broadcast NFL games until after 2029, CEO Lachlan Murdoch said. The league had been trying to renegotiate its rights deals before an opt-out clause.

SpaceX galore

SpaceX stock rose 6% in heavy trading as the number of shares available for public trading more than doubled following the expiration of the first of several lockup restrictions.

$28K EV truck

Ford Motor said its upcoming midsize electric pickup truck would be priced starting at about $28,000 and named Fathom.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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Tough to predict

Kalshi, a prediction market headed by Tarek Mansour (top right), argues that a recent suit filed by New York AG Tish James (top left), with the blessing of Gov. Hochul (inset), takes aim at its entire business model.

Getty Images

Odd that Kalshi's being singled out

On the money

CHARLES GASPARINO

STATE regulators taking aim at prediction markets for regulation isn't new, but according to Kalshi, what is new is New York singling out its business as an "illegal gambling operation" for much of the same wagering that can be found on just about every similar platform, On The Money has learned.

At issue: A lawsuit recently filed by New York Attorney General **Tish James** with the full blessing of fellow Dem Gov. **Hochul**. Kalshi says the suit takes aim at its entire business model — everything from predicting the outcomes of "Big Brother Season 28" to the outcomes of various political races.

The civil lawsuit charges that Kalshi's business model is "illegal" because it's essentially a gambling hub, a high-end bookie that needs to be regulated and licensed by the state the same way as casinos and other "legal" wagering operations do. Among the remedies the state is seeking is Kalshi getting licensed by the state, and turning over billions of dollars in "ill-gotten gains."

Kalshi, headed by CEO **Tarek Mansour**, argues the suit is a death blow to its business. It's more like a commodities exchange that doesn't meet state licensing requirements and regulated by the federal government because it's actually offering futures contracts.

Meanwhile, what On The Money does find interesting now is Kalshi's contention that it's being singled out. Last I checked, Kalshi isn't the only prediction market — it competes for pole position with Polymarket, which also isn't licensed by the state.

But reps for James and Hochul point out that they've sued digital-currency platforms Coinbase and Gemini over similar issues.

People at Kalshi have their theories. They pointed to significant Hochul campaign contributions from the gaming industry and related businesses that compete with prediction markets.

GOOD JOBS JULY

Cuts down, hires up

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

Layoffs in July hit their lowest level in two years — a sign of a resilient labor market despite big economic shocks from the war in Iran and the rapid rise of artificial intelligence, according to a report Thursday.

US-based employers announced 33,429 job cuts in July — down 27% from the previous month and 46% lower than the same month last year, Challenger, Gray & Christmas said in a new report.

So far this year through July, employers have announced 477,033 job cuts — down 41% compared to the first seven months of 2025, according to the firm.

Companies are still laying off employees, but not as many as last year — even as AI came in as the leading reason for job cuts for the fifth consecutive month, Challenger said.

"The pace of layoffs fell dramatically this summer. Layoff plans continue to be announced primarily in tech, and artificial intelligence is still the story as investments in the technology reshape organizations," Andy Challenger, workplace expert and chief revenue officer for Challenger, Gray & Christmas, said in a statement.

"Hiring has also increased over last year by 25%, so while AI is shifting the labor market, it is not dismantling it."

So far this year, AI has been cited in 112,713 job-cut announcements — including 10,970 in July, according to the report.

184,000 lost to AI

Since 2023, when Challenger started tracking AI as a distinct reason for layoffs, the new tech has been linked to 184,538 job cuts.

In July, technology was the sector with the most job cuts, announcing 9,867 layoffs for a total of 149,023 so far this year.

That's 67% more layoffs than the same period last year and just under a third of all job cuts in 2026.

Financial firms, government agencies, services, healthcare, transportation and media also saw significant layoffs in June, the firm said.

Challenger also said hiring has picked up, after companies halted taking on new employees as they feared economic shocks from President Trump's tariffs and the Middle East conflict.

Employers announced plans to hire 16,095 workers in July — 47% higher than the previous month and much higher than last July's 3,200 new hires.

It's the highest hiring total for July since 2022.

New polish for Times Sq. image

STEVE CUOZZO

REALTY CHECK

TIMES Square, the "Crossroads of the World," is at its own commercial crossroads — but an ambitious, newly launched project by developer Jamestown is expected to bring long-needed glamour to the Bowtie's tackier south end.

Jamestown is opening One Times Square's full array of "immersive" attractions to the public on Friday — five years since the half-billion-dollar adaptive reuse of the iconic but empty former office tower was announced.

Guests who pay $44 each enjoy the tower's Times Square Skywalk, a top-floor, open-air, 360-degree viewing platform, and a "Times Travel" package on lower indoor floors highlighting the bright-lights district's history — including a simulated 1930s dirigible ride over Manhattan.

Business advocates say the opening will blunt the blight of tip-seeking costumed cartoon characters, most of whom suit up on the pedestrian plaza at the tower's foot.

Although without offices, the New Year's Eve ball-drop building's success or failure is vital to perceptions of the "Bowtie" formed by the junction of Broadway and Seventh Avenue between West 42nd and West 47th streets. Office tenants and merchants are rooting for the new attraction to draw upscale visitors and burnish the area's image.

CBRE Tri-State research director Michael Slattery said office vacancy in the 14 million square feet of offices in the Bowtie and the area south of West 50th Street east of Eighth Avenue is a mere 11.7% compared to 20% in West Midtown overall.

"Times Square carries well-known perception challenges. The streetscape and tourist activity are real considerations for some occupiers," he added.

"But constrained supply elsewhere at comparable price points makes the district a legitimate, and increasingly attractive, option."

Lost luster

The Bowtie and West 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues — the "Deuce" — have lost a bit of luster since a multibillion-dollar public-private cleanup campaign transformed the sleazy, crime-ridden blocks of the 1970s and 1980s into a glittering, "Disney-fied" home to new office towers and revitalized theaters.

Despite strong recent demand such as the new JAMS lease at Two Times Square and Versant Media's expansion at 229 W. 43rd St., two former office addresses — Five Times Square and the landmarked Candler building on 42nd Street — are being converted to apartments.

The Deuce is still fighting to regain its juice since B.B. King's Blues Club closed in 2018. Construction stopped at a retail conversion of the former Times Square Theater at 215 W. 42nd St. Along Broadway, Asia-based novelty shops replaced mainstream stores such as Express, Swarovski, Oakley and Ray-Ban.

But Times Square Alliance president Tom Harris hailed the One Times Square opening as a harbinger of good things.

"It will allow for the excitement of New Year's Eve and the ball drop to be felt all year round for the hundreds of thousands of people who visit Times Square each day and is a great place for visitors to make new Times Square memories," he said.

AI investing prodigy is still in

DOWN 'BOT' NOT OUT

By ARIEL ZILBER

AI investing wunderkind Leopold Aschenbrenner is already placing big bets again, less than a week after his much-watched hedge fund Situational Awareness saw a spectacular blow-up.

For those who have followed the "Nostradamus of AI's" career, that comes as no surprise.

The 24-year-old former OpenAI researcher recently made a $400 million investment in a privately held company, Bloomberg reported Wednesday. The business was not named.

The move came just days after Aschenbrenner was forced to unload most of the public-stock portfolio at his AI-focused hedge fund, Situational Awareness, after a brutal selloff in semiconductor and infrastructure stocks triggered crushing margin calls.

But the fund is still in business, has eliminated its leverage and maintains control of an estimated $10 billion in assets, including a multibillion-dollar stake in AI giant Anthropic, according to reports and regulatory filings.

And, despite losing about 67% of its portfolio value in July, Situational Awareness remains sharply ahead for the year because of its extraordinary first-half gains.

Aschenbrenner's new bet shows he has no intention of slowing down.

Meanwhile, Wall Street has been asking whether Aschenbrenner's biggest mistake was his bullish bet on artificial intelligence — or simply borrowing too much money to make it.

"The scissors of leverage cuts both ways," Derek Reisfield, co-founder and former chairman of MarketWatch, told The Post.

"It's great while things are going up, as it magnified returns, but it kills you if things go down, especially if you then get margin calls you cannot cover."

Young prodigy

Just weeks ago, the young "Nostradamus" — who got the nickname from podcaster Tim Ferriss — looked unstoppable.

The brainy German native known for enjoying Rubik's cubes had graduated from Columbia University at just 19. An early adherent to Sam Bankman-Fried-style "effective altruism," Aschenbrenner went on to work briefly for SBF's FTX Future Fund. The wunderkind also did a stint at OpenAI, where he was part of the wonky "superalignment" safety team but reportedly got fired for leaking info the firm considered sensitive to the spouse of an exec at rival Anthropic.

After leaving OpenAI in 2024, he launched Situational Awareness in San Francisco with a few hundred million dollars and no prior investing experience.

The firm was named after his 165-page June 2024 manifesto in which he argued that artificial general intelligence would arrive far sooner than most people expected and trigger an unprecedented boom in semiconductors, data centers, memory chips and power infrastructure.

"Before long, the world will wake up. But right now, there are perhaps a few hundred people, most of them in San Francisco and the AI labs, that have situational awareness," Aschenbrenner wrote.

"Perhaps they will be an odd footnote in history, or perhaps they will go down in history like Szilard and Oppenheimer and Teller. If they are seeing the future even close to correctly, we are in for a wild ride."

That thesis drew Aschenbrenner a cult following — and massive returns.

The fund reportedly returned 439% in the first half of this year, helping attract billions of dollars in investor capital and swelling to more than $20 billion in investor assets before last month's selloff.

Regulatory filings show the portfolio became heavily concentrated in companies tied to the AI buildout, including semiconductor firms, cloud infrastructure providers and energy companies.

Aschenbrenner appeared to enjoy the fruits of his labor, moving to a mansion in San Francisco's upscale Nob Hill neighborhood, according to the Wall Street Journal. He and his friend Dwarkesh Patel, a podcaster, hosted happy hours at Situational Awareness HQ.

'Playing with dynamite'

However, when AI infrastructure stocks tumbled in July, the same concentration and borrowed money that had powered the fund's earnings magnified its losses.

As collateral values fell, Goldman Sachs demanded Situational Awareness pay back some of its loans, the New York Times reported, citing two bankers who were involved.

To come up with the cash, Aschenbrenner scrambled to dump much of its public-equity portfolio.

Citadel ultimately acquired most of those holdings in a distressed transaction, allowing the fund to extinguish its leverage and stabilize what remained.

Reisfield likened the situation to

black, making big plays after selloff

SA Situational Awareness

Leopold Aschenbrenner's (left) AI-focused hedge fund, Situational Awareness, endured a massive selloff after AI stocks fell in July, as the investing prodigy married Avital Balwit (second left), Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei's (right) chief of staff, and many of the sold holdings were bought up by Ken Griffin's (second right) Citadel.

> **The kids were playing with dynamite. They just didn't know it.**
>
> **— analyst Derek Reisfield**

Long-Term Capital Management, the legendary hedge fund whose Nobel Prize-winning founders were ultimately undone by excessive leverage after markets moved against them.

"The kids were playing with dynamite," he said of Aschenbrenner. "They just didn't know it."

Aschenbrenner struck a regretful note while vowing to "fight another day."

"We let you down this month," Aschenbrenner wrote investors Friday after the selloff. "While we ultimately found a solution that protected the fund and you as investors, our intention in running the fund is to never find ourselves in such a position in the first place.

"Volatility is the price of long-term investment returns."

Aschenbrenner seemed to show a certain sangfroid over the weekend — getting married to Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei's chief of staff Avital Balwit in the thick of his firm's near-implosion. Dozens of Silicon Valley bigshots, many of them Situational investors, came to the party at a Tuscan-style villa in the seaside town of Carmel, Calif.

They quaffed Napa Valley wine while a DJ spun a set reminiscent of notorious Berlin club Berghain, a nod to Aschenbrenner's roots.

Comeback kid?

On the finance front, rather than liquidating everything, Situational Awareness retained its private investments, including a reported $5 billion stake in Anthropic.

That may have been possible because of the way the fund was structured, according to Fabio Savoldelli, a former head of Merrill Lynch's alternative investments group and an adjunct prof at Columbia Business School.

Savoldelli told The Post Situational Awareness' investor lockups meant clients generally could not immediately withdraw their money, giving Aschenbrenner room to sell liquid public stocks while hanging on to illiquid private holdings like Anthropic instead of dumping them in a fire sale.

"He's basically traded his liquid assets in return for being able to hang on to his illiquid assets," Savoldelli said, adding that the fund's lengthy redemption restrictions made a broader run on the portfolio far less likely.

"He doesn't have to give you back anything until 2028."

Holding on to Anthropic is key to any comeback.

The fund reportedly explored selling part of its position in the OpenAI rival during the liquidity crunch, but ultimately held on to it. Remarkably, Situational Awareness is still well in the black for the year in spite of its sharp losses in July.

Leon Metzger, a hedge fund industry expert witness who reviewed Aschenbrenner's investor letter, said that distinction matters.

"From a strict operational standpoint, if a fund has not been liquidated, it has not collapsed," Metzger told The Post, while acknowledging that others may reasonably view such severe financial distress differently.

"Notwithstanding the July losses, a year-to-date net gain of 80% is very, very impressive," he added.

Whether Aschenbrenner himself remains a billionaire is less clear.

His personal ownership stake, accumulated performance fees and investment in the fund have never been publicly disclosed, making it difficult to determine the true size of his fortune.

"Ultimately, the core valuation comes down to two questions: What is the current market value of his holdings, and what liabilities are tied to financing those positions?" Metzger said.

For now, Aschenbrenner's reputation as one of AI's boldest believers has survived much the same way his fund has: battered and dramatically smaller, but far from gone.

He and Goldman Sachs did not return requests for comment.

Ex-Shell worker DEI suit

A white Marine Corps veteran who spent nearly 15 years working in corporate security for Shell is suing the oil giant, alleging he was forced out and replaced by a less-qualified man during a DEI-fueled reorganization.

Thomas Hutt, 60, of Rusk, Texas, claims Shell booted him from his role overseeing security for the company's US oil facilities as Shell said it was "diversifying the talent" during a January 2025 reorganization — giving his job to an employee the complaint described as a black man from Nigeria whose background was mainly in another area.

The overhaul culminated when Hutt's supervisor presented him and two of his white colleagues who were laid off at the same time with a novelty "tear jar," according to the lawsuit first obtained by The Post. The two other men sued Shell last year on the same grounds. That litigation is ongoing.

Hutt's complaint alleges the gift — supposedly meant to collect tears shed in grief — mocked the fired workers and reflected "deliberate indifference toward the discriminatory consequences of the reorganization."

America First Legal, a nonprofit law firm, filed suit in federal court in the Eastern District of Texas.

Hutt is seeking back pay, pay he would have earned had he remained on the job, compensatory and punitive damages, attorneys' fees and other relief.

"We do not tolerate discrimination and strongly refute these allegations," a Shell rep told The Post.

Ariel Zilber

Burger 'King' of fast food

There might be a new king of fast food.

Burger King's US sales are soaring as customers embrace its revamped Whopper — while long-reigning McDonald's suffers flailing growth in its largest market.

In the most recent quarter, Burger King's US same-store sales jumped 8.5%, owner Restaurant Brands International — which also owns Tim Hortons and Popeyes — said Thursday. McDonald's, meanwhile, saw US same-store sales growth of just 0.8%.

RBI said Burger King's turnaround effort — which included the updated Whopper, restaurant renovations and a new marketing campaign — helped draw in customers.

Taylor Herzlich

Classifieds
nypost.com

EMPLOYMENT

TECH CAREERS

Regulatory Data Sales Specialist @ Bloomberg LP (New York, NY) F/T. Utliz strng prdct knwldg, tech skils, & mrkt knwldg to genert revenu for Bloomberg regltry data soltns. Pstn reqrs a Bach deg or the frgn eqvlnt in Bus, Econ, or rltd, & 5 yrs of prgrsvly rspnsbl exp in the job ofrd, or as a Regltry Spclst, Entrprs Sals Acct Mngr, or rltd. In lieu of a Bach deg, emplyr wil acpt 2 addtnl yrs of exp in the job ofrd, or as a Regltry Spclst, Entrprs Sales Acct Mngr, or rltd. Mst hav 1 yr of exp in each of the folwng skils: Tailor service offerings to complex client needs over long sales cycles; Financial regulations, data governance, and compliance frameworks; Managing deals with multiple stakeholders, including legal, compliance, procurement, technology, executive decision-makers; Working with product development teams to align client feedback with product roadmaps; Provide reasoning and position data integration, APIs, and analytical tools as part of a service offering; U.S. regulatory landscape; and Sell-side or buy-side experience in or selling within the financial markets. Rte of pay: $220,000-$295,000/yr. Snd resume to Bloomberg HR @ recruit2@bloomberg.net. Indicate (B122-2026). EOE.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NEW YORK COUNTY (MANHATTAN)
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Hope and Crown LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/28/2025. Office location: New York County (Manhattan). SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Vanessa Turner: 1178 Broadway 3rd Floor #1445 New York, NY 10001. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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ROCKED CITY

By MIKE PUMA

CLEVELAND — Nolan McLean's early turbulence Thursday appeared as if it would just be a footnote in another strong start.

But the Mets rookie allowed two straight singles with one out in the fifth inning and threw three consecutive balls to Nathaniel Lowe before finally firing a strike. The next pitch was a four-seam fastball that Lowe crushed into the right field seats.

It left McLean with the distaste of his worst outing since May 25. He allowed five earned runs on eight hits with three walks and eight strikeouts over five innings in the 13-6 victory over the Guardians at Progressive Field.

"Unfortunately for me, I wasn't able to locate the fastball that well today," McLean said. "I always talk about off-speed [pitches] for strikes, and that was pretty much the only thing I had going for me today."

The outing was McLean's first in his past nine in which he failed to complete at least six innings. The eight hits he surrendered tied a career high.

McLean ran his career strikeout total to 213. It's the fifth most in franchise history in a pitcher's first 31 starts, behind Dwight Gooden (276), Matt Harvey (234), Noah Syndergaard (221) and Kodai Senga (219).

McLean's day started rough enough: He faced eight batters in the first inning and surrendered two runs on three singles and two walks.

"He was in typical Nolan cruise control there for a while, spinning the baseball really well, mixing really well," interim manager Andy Green said, referring to the 12 straight batters McLean retired before the Guardians began their rally in the fifth. "And then that fifth inning, I know he didn't want to fall behind 3-0. Falling behind 3-0 to good hitters puts you in some tough spots."

Adding to his challenge was facing a complete lineup of left-handed hitters.

"Getting ahead in the count against anybody, righty or lefty, always helps," McLean said. "If I just played a little bit better ahead in the count, it could have been a much better outing for me."

But McLean could savor the three-game sweep.

"I think finding multiple ways to score like we did today, whether it was homers or grinding out at-bats and making them walk us in, that's really cool to see," McLean said. "Ideally, a better start out of me could help, too, but I appreciate the offense keeping me in it."

McLean hits rough patch on road in Cleveland

I'VE SEEN BETTER DAYS: Nolan McLean reacts during a mound visit in the fifth inning of the Mets' 13-6 win over the Guardians on Thursday. The rookie starter allowed five runs on eight hits with three walks in his worst outing since May. Imagn Images

Harbaugh may play starters in preseason

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

GIANTS NOTES

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — John Harbaugh's unofficial Giants coaching debut is right around the corner, and the team might look closer to a regular-season product than you would expect.

Asked for the first time if he plans to play the Giants starters in the preseason, Harbaugh indicated it is possible in any of the three games.

"We haven't decided exactly yet," Harbaugh said. "I think we'll probably lean toward — you know, we're a young team. So, young guys, we're going to want them out there playing and getting experience. So, I would think that would be the way we'd be leaning. How much, what degree, what games, we have to figure that out still."

➤ QB **Jaxson Dart** discussed for the first time his penalized ball flip at CB **Greg Newsome II** to conclude Tuesday's practice after a touchdown run. No hard feelings on either side, he said.

"G-New's my brother," Dart said. "I mean, brothers compete, brothers get into it. It's a battle every single play, and I think that when you're in those environments, it just gets competitive. So, that's just kind of football, but at the same time, you got to respect the fact that you hold each other accountable and you have those conversations."

➤ The Giants signed FB **Grant Finley** — who was part of rookie minicamp — and waived TE **Tyler Moore**. Finley is the second fullback on the roster.

Post Time: **1:10 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Ez Roll (5th)
Lock Record: 10 for 20 (50%)
Meet Record: 54/212 $346.86

1 7 fur; $42,000; clm($20,000); 3up(f)

Hall of Fame day at Saratoga...In the opener **MISS AMERICAN PIE** was 3rd and **MARGARITA MOLLY** was 2nd here a month ago. Ms American Pie won her only start at this shorter distance. **FURRY FOX** is 1 for 13 after finishing 6th, then 5th at the Big A. 3rd best lone start at 7/8. **ADMIRAL SOL** closed well to be 2nd (at 51-1) last out. Dangerous getting more ground.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Mobelladream(L),122	C Elliott	5-2-2	Ferraro	4-1
2	Margarita Molly(L),122	F Prat	2-7-5	Brion	3-1
3	Miss American Pie(L),126	T Gaffalione	3-12-3	Schettino	5-1
4	Furry Fox(L),126	K Carmouche	5-6-5	Samsundar	12-1
5	Here'syourtrouble(L),126	E Zayas	5-6-1	Rodriguez	15-1
6	Lady Delilah(L),126	R Santana, Jr	3-7-1	Ferraro	12-1
7	Call Me Jal(L),122	R Gutierrez	5-1-6	Ferraro	8-1
8	Dia Por Dia(L),126	J Ortiz	5-1-x	Rice	7-2
9	Admiral Sol(L),122	K Davis	2-4-7	Housel	8-1

2 5 1/2 fur(T); $56,000; mdn clm($50,000); 3up(f)

The first of 5 turf races. **LAKE ARIEL** moves lower to make grass debut for Donk. Irad a good sign. **MIDTOWN MISCHIEF** is 0 for 2 on turf. 3rd at this level/distance. Rider change to Prat. And Franco rides the debuting **MOBILE**, a Dialed In filly for Motion.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Midnight Blue(L),122	L Saez	2-4-6	Pregman	6-1
2	Midtown Mischief(L),122	F Prat	3-5-3	Maker	5-2
3	Raynham Hall(L),122	C Elliott	4-5-3	Rodriguez	10-1
4	Luckbeourlady(L),122	R Santana, Jr	5-x-x	Clement	8-1
5	Dancing Miracle(L),122	J Rodriguez	7-2-10	Abreu	15-1
6	Bank On Bebe(L),126	K Davis	6-7-5	Davis	30-1
7	Froghollowsummer(L),126	T Gaffalione	3-8-5	C Martin	10-1
8	Ticket to Ride(L),122	E Zayas	5-10-2	Joseph	5-1
9	Mobile(M),122	M Franco	x-x-x	Motion	8-1
10	Lake Ariel(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	5-4-3	Donk	6-1
11	Shes Sal's Dream(M),122	R Gutierrez	8-x-x	Barker	20-1
12	Raised(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	3-9-x	Moquett	9-2

3 1 1/16 miles(T); $100,000; mdn; 3up

Last of 11 from the gate, **MAXIMUM HEAT** caught fire and rallied to within 1 1/2 lengths his debut. J Ortiz stays on for Rice. **COACH RYAN** is 0 for 3 but 2nd in front of the fast closing Maximum Heat. And **OHONTES OWN** was 3rd, a length back of **EMOTIONALYAVAILBL** who was 2nd. Rider changes: Irad on Ohontes Own; Prat on Emotionalyavailabl.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Takeiteasy Charlie(L),121	T Gaffalione	4-x-x	Mott	12-1
2	Runcot(L),121	E Zayas	8-8-x	James Bond	20-1
3	Isthereanormalwife(L),121	J Velazquez	2-x-x	Donk	10-1
4	Bold Scholar(L),121	C Elliott	13-x-x	Giddings	50-1
5	Tango Tango(L),126	D Davis	7-x-x	Hooper	30-1
6	Emotionlyavailble(L),121	F Prat	2-5-x	Cox	5-1
7	In Front Runner(L),121	L Saez	6-4-x	Sano	15-1
8	Coach Ryan(L),121	M Franco	2-2-5	C Brown	3-1
9	Ohonte's Own(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	3-2-3	Morley	4-1
10	Maximum Heat(L),121	J Ortiz	5-x-x	Rice	5-1
11	Daisy Doo(L),121	R Santana, Jr	3-3-8	Ribaudo	15-1
12	Liam's Legacy(L),121	J Alvarado	3-4-x	Tagg	8-1
13	Professor Proton(L),121	R Gutierrez	3-4-6	Hennig	8-1
14	Shenanigans Buck(M),121	K Davis	x-x-x	Giddings	30-1
15	Big Frosty(L),121	F Prat	2-9-x	Pletcher	12-1
16	Imperial Anthem(L),121	J Castellano	10-9-x	Englehart	15-1

4 6 fur; $110,000; alw; 3up

Jeremiah Englehart entered **PARTY IN THE ARMY** in the Mike Lee off back-to-back wins and he ran well for 3rd at 39-1. May get back to business at a shorter price. **LONG POUR** (Dutrow) and **ANYWAY** (Rice) ran home 1-2 here in June. Prat on Long Pour who is 2 for 3 at the Spa. Anyway has run since, scoring at this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Elysian Meadows(L),126	J Alvarado	6-4-2	Mott	8-1
2	Long Pour(L),126	F Prat	1-9-3	R Dutrow	5-2
3	Anyway(L),122	M Franco	1-2-1	Rice	3-1
4	Runaway Joke(L),126	T Gaffalione	6-6-3	Summers	15-1
5	Three B's(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	7-1-10	Rice	5-1
6	Kenny Be(L),126	R Santana, Jr	2-2-1	Duggan	5-1
7	Party in the Army(L),122	K Carmouche	3-1-1	Englehart	4-1
8	What's Up Bro(L),126	H Harkie	7-6-5	Follett	30-1

5 1 1/8 miles; $78,000; alw; 3up

Second behind a next out winner, **EZ ROLL** rebounds for Ray Handal. Winner 3 of previous 4, twice at this distance. **PAPA YO** was 3rd, then a wide 5th before shipping from Oaklawn. Won back-to-back previously. Races for new team Rice/Franco. **URGENCY** loads off a maiden breaker (9th start). Dutrow has him competitively spotted but can he get another furlong?

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Papa Yo(L),126	M Franco	5-3-1	Rice	4-1
2	Fateful Lightning(L),126	K Carmouche	1-6-2	Rodriguez	12-1
3	Googol Joke(L),126	J Alvarado	4-7-1	Medina	8-1
4	Ez Roll(L),126	D Davis	2-1-3	Handal	1-1
5	American Grant(L),126	R Santana, Jr	2-9-10	B Brown	15-1
6	Urgency(L),121	J Ortiz	1-2-6	R Dutrow	10-1
7	Antietam(L),126	S Gonzalez	1-7-1	Kantarmaci	10-1
8	Leftembehind(L),126	C Elliott	7-9-3	Rodriguez	6-1

6 6 fur; $90,000; mdn; 2YO

Two-year-olds. **AUDIBLE JOHNNY** raced evenly, 2nd best, debuting at Monmouth. A threat, 2nd time around, getting more ground. Edge over first time starters **SILVERUS** (Weaver/Johnny V/City Of Light), **COLTRANE** (MoquettPrat/Coal Front), **CITY OF ROME** (Kenneally/Saez/Army Mule) and **RUFUS THE RED** (Morley/Irad/Kantharos).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Pirate Ship,123	J Ortiz	8-x-x	Sharp	10-1
2	Rufus the Red,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Morley	8-1
3	Big Bold Red,123	T Gaffalione	x-x-x	McGaughey III	12-1
4	Constant Force,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Avila	15-1
5	Coltrane,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Moquett	10-1
6	Hurricane Mo,123	R Santana, Jr	2-3-x	Delgado	6-1
7	Ed Charles,123	J Alvarado	4-x-x	Englehart	8-1
8	Knee High,123	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Gorham	20-1
9	Audible Johnny,123	M Husbands	2-x-x	Joseph	8-1
10	City of Rome,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Kenneally	5-1
11	Nodin,123	J Lezcano	9-x-x	Barrera III	30-1
12	Silverus,123	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Weaver	3-1

7 5 1/2 fur(T); $78,000; alw; 3up

He's a fighter and he's versatile. **NEW YORK SCRAPPY** has won 3 in a row, the last pair after a stretch duel on both dirt and turf. **MONEY MAKES MONEY** ships from California after finishing 1st, then 3rd at Santa Anita. Irad picks him up for Diodoro. **RUSSI** is 2 for 20 after turning in 3 lengths short at this level/distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	New York Scrappy(L),126	F Prat	1-1-1	Kantarmaci	7-2
2	Projectability(L),126	R Santana, Jr	4-3-1	Rice	5-1
3	Bridle a Butterfly(L),126	J Ortiz	4-5-11	Barrera III	6-1
4	Money Makes Money(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	3-1-5	Diodoro	5-2
5	Gypsy Dreaming(L),126	D Davis	5-4-4	Quick	20-1
6	Two Ducks(L),122	T Gaffalione	1-2-3	C Martin	12-1
7	Remi's Moon(L),126	M Franco	6-4-1	Sharp	6-1
8	Russi(L),126	E Zayas	5-8-4	James Bond	8-1
9	Frostelle(L),126	J Castellano	8-1-5	Englehart	12-1
10	Math Tutor(L),126	J Morelos	1-3-8	Antonucci	4-1

8 1 mile; $42,000; clm($20,000); 3up

Late runs from **SOCIABLY JOHNNY** to be 3rd last pair. Sprint to route for Derek Ryan who gets Lezcano to ride. **MIRAGE** was 2nd making 2 turns here last month. 0 for 2 at this shorter distance. Franco rides for Abreu. **SHANGRALA ROAD** Turf to dirt for Rice. 4th of 7 last dirt start. Drops. Irad replaces Lezcano. **YOURE LOOKIN GOOD** was 3rd behind Mirage.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Monte Avi(L),126	J Rodriguez	4-6-4	Hennig	12-1
2	Raging Sea Captain(L),121	S Gonzalez	5-8-3	Rodriguez	15-1
3	Sociably Johnny(L),121	J Lezcano	3-3-8	Ryan	5-1
4	Reside(L),121	E Zayas	7-8-4	Potts	20-1
5	Mike's Magic(L),126	D Davis	5-7-2	Hills	6-1
6	Jake's Orchard(L),126	S Fret	6-4-5	Torelli	30-1
7	The Obliterator(L),121	R Gutierrez	2-5-4	DiPrima	8-1
8	Mirage(L),126	M Franco	2-4-5	Abreu	5-2
9	Shangrala Road(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	9-5-4	Rice	3-1
10	You're Lookin Good(L),121	R Santana, Jr	3-6-6	Green	8-1

9 1 mile(T); $400,000; Hall Of Fame; 3YO

Wide trip for **ARIZONA TERRITORY** in the Saranac but he still managed to close well to be a close 4th. Prat stays on for Chad Brown. **TOUCH OF FIRE** led, caught in the longer Grade 1 Belmont Derby. Won 3 of previous 4. Irad replaces Prat. **GLAVINE** (fave) was 3rd and **BLINGING IT BACK** (25-1) was 2nd in front of compromised top pick in the Saranac. Blinging it Back now 1 for 10. **IMMORTALISED** was 2nd in the American Derby at Churchill. 3 for 4 at this shorter distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Touch of Fire,122	I Ortiz, Jr	4-1-1	Cox	5-2
2	Print,120	R Santana, Jr	5-3-2	Ribaudo	15-1
3	Vasy(IRE),122	T Gaffalione	8-3-1	Walsh	10-1
4	Third Coast,122	J Lezcano	6-1-5	Proctor	8-1
5	Glavine,120	J Velazquez	3-4-1	Morley	7-2
6	Arizona Territory,120	F Prat	4-1-1	C Brown	5-1
7	Immortalised(FR),122	J Ortiz	2-2-1	Walsh	8-1
8	Blinging It Back,120	E Zayas	2-7-5	Casse	10-1
9	Bottas,124	M Franco	5-3-9	Clement	6-1

10 1 3/16 miles(T); $500,000; Saratoga Oaks; 3YO(f)

A look back at the Belmont Oaks as we look into the Saratoga Oaks. **IMAGINATIONTHELADY** was 6th and **FAITHFUL DEPARTED** was 2nd. Imaginationthelady is 3 for 6 including two Grade 2 wins. Faithful Departed won previous pair including a Grade 3. **CONSENSUS VIEW** debuted with a W at this distance. Tough spot; best value. **KENTUCKY BELLE** moves to the stake after nipping an allowance field by a nose, this distance. Irad on the Keeneland invader. **FITZ RIGHT** was 3rd between top 2 in the Oaks. Winner previous 3. Contender.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Kentucky Belle,124	I Ortiz, Jr	1-2-1	Cox	6-1
2	Fitz Right,124	F Prat	3-1-1	C Brown	5-2
3	Code,124	L Saez	3-2-1	Pletcher	20-1
4	Bless Her,124	J Velazquez	1-2-5	Motion	12-1
5	Imaginationthelady,124	T Gaffalione	6-1-2	Walsh	4-1
6	Faithful Departed,124	J Ortiz	2-1-1	Forster	9-5
7	Just Aloof,124	D Davis	7-4-4	C Brown	12-1
8	Consensus View(GB),124	M Franco	1-x-x	C Brown	8-1

11 7 fur; $52,000; alw; 4up(f)

LIKA ROLLING STONE Midpack 4th at 30-1 after dueling on the lead. Moves lower; runs shorter. **MURSAL** won last pair, both photo finishes. A 3rd in the cards. **DESPOS DREAM** was 3rd behind Mursal but gets a rider change to Irad.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Moon Gate(L),123	R Santana, Jr	1-3-2	Friedman	30-1
2	Lika Rolling Stone(L),123	D Rivera	4-7-2	Arriaga	8-1
3	Carolina Smokeshow(L),123	J Lezcano	1-4-4	Romero	15-1
4	Mischievous Trick(L),123	E Zayas	1-1-5	Ferraro	30-1
5	Coquito(L),123	J Ortiz	7-1-2	Sharp	3-1
6	Baby Sassicaia(L),123	H Harkie	1-3-5	Follett	12-1
7	Curlin's Magic(L),121	J Alvarado	3-3-3	Arenas	30-1
8	Mursal(L),123	D Davis	1-1-3	Rice	2-1
9	Heavenly Light(L),123	J Rodriguez	6-3-1	De Paz	12-1
10	Despo's Dream(L),123	I Ortiz, Jr	3-2-1	Rodriguez	5-2

PLAY OF THE DAY

Recap. Kings Landyn (10-1) ran well for third. Cream Of The Crop (19-1) and Radio Red (17-1) ran off the board. Not Tapping didn't run at all. She scratched. Loss on the day: -$23.24.

Two plays Friday. Bet $8 across the board on Audible Johnny in Race 6 and Lika Rolling Stone in Race 11. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Saratoga Results

FIRST-1 mile; $37,000; clm($12,500); 4up
4 Gldn Symphny (Frnc) 7.54 4.12 2.40
1 Shipsational (Davis) 5.74 2.70
3 Interlock Empire (Ortiz,Jr.) 2.10
Scr: Superpower, Expensive Cut
● $1 Exacta (4-1) $16.98 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-1-3-7) $10.49 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-1-3) $12.66

SECOND-1 1/16 mile; $115,000; mdn; 2YO
3 Howrd's Hp (Frnc) 14.24 5.32 3.78
5 Al Mowashaah (Ortiz,Jr.) 3.30 2.68
10 Captain George (Rodriguez) 3.96
Scr: Zack the Grey
● $1 Daily Double (4-3) $18.94 ● $1 Exacta (3-5) $19.83 ● $1 Quinella (3-5) $7.87 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-5-10-2) $65.18 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-5-10) $66.86

THIRD-7 fur; $50,000; mdn clm($35,000); 3up
3 Hw Mch Is Engh (Dvs) 6.60 4.68 3.94
5 Alwys Honest (Crmouch) 14.52 8.48
8 Kings Landyn (Gutierrez) 6.38
● $1 Pick 3 (4-3-3) $98.29 ● $1 Daily Double (3-3) $32.80 ● $1 Exacta (3-5) $33.87 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-5-8-1) $159.87 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-5-8) $184.90

FOURTH-6 fur; $37,000; cl($12,50); 4up (f&m)
3 Cty Blocks (Gnzlz) 7.38 3.64 3.26
2 Play Good Py Good (Prt) 5.76 3.78
4 Short Shift (Ortiz,Jr.) 6.06
Scr: Top of the Table
● $1 Pick 3 (3-3-3) $105.08 ● $1 Daily Double (3-3) $14.01 ● $1 Exacta (3-2) $14.62 ● $1 Quinella (2-3) $9.39 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-2-4-5) $54.89 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-2-4) $46.54

FIFTH-5½ fur; $56,000; mdn clm($50,0); 3up
4 Untl Lst Cll (Frnco) 46.88 17.84 9.30
6 Sir Walta (Castellano) 3.82 3.26
2 High Leverage (Ortiz,Jr.) 3.34
Scr: Make a Prediction, Crazy Busted, Three Two Won, Speightful Storm, Strobe Light
● $1 Pick 3 (3-3-4) $491.26 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (3-3-3-4) $1565.95 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (4-3-3-3-4) $7559.61 ● $1 Daily Double (3-4) $65.55 ● $1 Exacta (4-6) $104.68 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-6-2-8) $134.09 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-6-2) $132.29

SIXTH-6 fur; $90,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F
2 Bech Belle (Gfflon) 7.54 4.78 3.48
10 Cody's Approval (Frnco) 6.64 5.36
6 Hammers Nickel (Prat) 7.44
Scr: Dotsy
● $1 Pick 3 (3-4-2) $426.55 ● $1 Daily Double (4-2) $112.12 ● $1 Exacta (2-10) $22.67 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-10-6-7) $75.33 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-10-6) $140.09

SEVENTH-1 mile; $120,000; alc; 3up
6 Rsk Tlrnc (IRE) (Prt) 3.96 3.18 2.32
5 Highlands Way (Franco) 5.98 3.40
4 Siyouincanada (FR) (Ortiz,Jr.) 3.14
Scr: Fort Nelson, Mega Magic, Founders
● $1 Pick 3 (4-2-6) $412.70 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (3-4-2-6) $635.11 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (3-3-4-2-6) $4082.81 ● $1 Daily Double (2-6) $11.99 ● $1 Exacta (6-5) $12.95 ● $0.1 Superfecta (6-5-4-1) $14.11 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-5-4) $23.24

Winner picked by Vic C (Lock)

EIGHTH-1 mile 1 fur; $125,000; alw; 3up
2 Strshp Ttn (Cstlln) 5.50 2.94 2.50
9 A Bourbn fr Tby (OrtzJr.) 3.74 3.22
3 Early Adopter (GB) (Franco) 4.12
Scr: Alternate Reality, Tacticality, Alan Turing, Le Gris
● $1 Pick 3 (2-6-2) $29.21 ● $1 Daily Double (6-2) $6.51 ● $1 Exacta (2-9) $9.71 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-9-3-4) $73.91 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-9-3) $22.08

Double picked by Vic C

NINTH-7 fur; $200,000; John Morrissey; 3up
5 Buttah (Castellno) 13.80 5.28 4.84
10 Doc Sullivan (Ortiz,Jr.) 4.46 3.64
7 Acoustic Ave (Lezcano) 7.60
Scr: Sacrosanct
● $1 Grand Slam (2/6/10-4/5/6-2/3/9-5) $45.41 ● $1 Pick 3 (6-2-5) $70.64 ● $1 Daily Double (2-5) $17.41 ● $1 Exacta (5-10) $34.09 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-10-7-2) $340.97 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-10-7) $143.45

TENTH-1 1/16 mile; $56,000; md cl($50,0); 3p
8 Intthwldrnss (Ortz) 11.58 5.88 4.02
3 Italianne (Ortiz,Jr.) 6.86 5.28
10 Sky Low Low (Davis) 5.54
Scr: Not Tapping, San Antonio Sara, Iwokeuplikethis
● $1 Pick 6 (4-2-6/8/9/10-2/11/12/13/14-5-8) $254.95 ● $1 Pick 6 (4-2-6/8/9/10-2/11/12/13/14-5-8) $78175.78 ● $1 Pick 3 (2-5-8) $143.25 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (6/8/9/10-2/11/12/13/14-5-8) $230.71 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (2-6/8/9/10-2/11/12/13/14-5-8) $1077.98 ● $1 Daily Double (5-8) $41.72 ● $1 Exacta (8-3) $32.76 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-3-10-1) $85.32 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-3-10) $129.11 ● $1 Pick 6 (4-2-6/8/9/10-2/11/12/13/14-5-8) $254.95 ● $1 Pick 6 (4-2-6/8/9/10-2/11/12/13/14-5-8) $78175.78 ● $1 Daily Double (5-8) $41.72 ● $1 Exacta (8-3) $32.76 ● $0.1 Show (8-3-10-1) $85.32 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-3-10) $129.11

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	68	46	.596	—	—	7-3	W-3	41-18	27-28
Yankees	64	51	.557	4½	+7	5-5	L-1	27-25	37-26
Boston	63	51	.553	5	+6½	9-1	W-8	28-29	35-22
Baltimore	56	59	.487	12½	1	5-5	L-1	32-30	24-29
Toronto	54	62	.466	15	3½	6-4	L-1	28-31	26-31

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	59	55	.518	—	—	4-6	L-3	34-21	25-34
Cleveland	57	59	.491	3	½	3-7	L-3	28-31	29-28
Minnesota	57	59	.491	3	½	5-5	W-1	30-27	27-32
Detroit	56	59	.487	3½	1	6-4	W-1	30-27	26-32
Kansas City	48	68	.414	12	9½	4-6	L-1	28-28	20-40

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Houston	59	57	.509	—	—	7-3	L-1	30-29	29-28
Texas	57	58	.496	1½	—	4-6	W-2	30-26	27-32
Seattle	56	60	.483	3	1½	4-6	L-1	33-26	23-34
Athletics	45	70	.391	13½	12	1-9	L-8	21-36	24-34
Los Angeles	44	71	.383	14½	13	3-7	W-1	25-33	19-38

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Thursday

Mets 13, Cleveland 6
Cincinnati 6, Athletics 5
L.A. Angels 4, Baltimore 1
Cubs 3, Toronto 2, 11 inn.
Detroit 11, Seattle 0
Minnesota 4, Kansas City 3
Boston 12, White Sox 11, 13 inn.

Friday

Atlanta at **Yankees**, 7:05
Toronto at Philadelphia, 6:40
Athletics at Boston, 7:10
L.A. Angels at Miami, 7:10
Cleveland at White Sox, 7:40
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 7:40
Cubs at Kansas City, 8:10
Baltimore at Texas, 8:15
Houston at San Diego, 9:40
Tampa Bay at Seattle, 9:45
Detroit at San Francisco, 10:15

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	70	45	.609	—	—	8-2	W-8	39-20	31-25
Philadelphia	62	54	.534	8½	+1	5-5	W-1	31-28	31-26
Miami	58	58	.500	12½	3	6-4	L-3	34-23	24-35
Washington	56	61	.479	15	5½	2-8	L-1	23-34	33-27
Mets	50	66	.431	20½	11	6-4	W-3	25-34	25-32

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	72	43	.626	—	—	6-4	W-3	39-21	33-22
Chicago	67	49	.578	5½	+6	7-3	W-4	35-24	32-25
St. Louis	57	58	.496	15	3½	4-6	W-1	28-32	29-26
Cincinnati	56	58	.491	15½	4	7-3	W-4	29-31	27-27
Pittsburgh	57	60	.487	16	4½	2-8	L-3	29-28	28-32

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	69	46	.600	—	—	2-8	L-6	33-23	36-23
Arizona	61	55	.526	8½	—	6-4	L-1	33-24	28-31
San Diego	60	56	.517	9½	1	7-3	W-1	32-25	28-31
San Francisco	48	67	.417	21	12½	4-6	L-2	26-27	22-40
Colorado	45	70	.391	24	15½	3-7	L-3	27-32	18-38

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Thursday

Mets 13, Cleveland 6
Cincinnati 6, Athletics 5
Milwaukee 5, Pittsburgh 2
Cubs 3, Toronto 2, 11 inn.
Philadelphia 7, Washington 3
Atlanta 11, Miami 3
San Diego 5, Arizona 1

Friday

Mets at Pittsburgh, 6:40
Atlanta at **Yankees**, 7:05
Toronto at Philadelphia, 6:40
Cincinnati at Washington, 6:45
L.A. Angels at Miami, 7:10
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 7:40
Cubs at Kansas City, 8:10
Colorado at St. Louis, 8:15
Houston at San Diego, 9:40
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, 9:40
Detroit at San Francisco, 10:15

POST SU DOKU **Puzzles on Page 36**

4	8	9	3	7	5	2	1	6
1	6	5	8	2	9	3	7	4
3	7	2	6	1	4	8	5	9
6	9	7	2	4	3	5	8	1
2	1	4	9	5	8	6	3	7
5	3	8	1	6	7	9	4	2
7	2	6	5	3	1	4	9	8
8	4	3	7	9	6	1	2	5
9	5	1	4	8	2	7	6	3

Solution to Very Easy #7,363

8	5	7	3	6	1	4	9	2
2	4	9	5	8	7	6	3	1
6	1	3	2	9	4	7	8	5
9	3	6	1	7	5	2	4	8
1	8	2	9	4	6	5	7	3
5	7	4	8	2	3	9	1	6
4	6	1	7	5	8	3	2	9
3	2	5	4	1	9	8	6	7
7	9	8	6	3	2	1	5	4

Solution to Difficult #7,153

Mets 13, Guardians 6

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lindor ss	6	1	2	3	0	3	.230
Bichette 3b	5	0	2	1	1	2	.257
Baty 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.219
Robert cf	6	2	3	0	0	1	.203
Benge rf	6	2	3	1	0	1	.267
Alvarez dh	4	2	1	1	2	0	.251
Semien 2b	4	2	3	2	1	0	.214
Wagaman 1b	2	1	1	0	0	1	.190
Young ph-1b	2	1	1	2	1	0	.253
Torrens c	4	2	2	3	1	1	.234
Pache lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Ewing ph-lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Totals	44	13	18	13	6	11	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana dh	2	0	0	0	1	1	.243
Adell ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.237
DeLauter rf	4	2	2	1	1	2	.279
Ramírez 3b	3	2	1	0	1	0	.234
Hoskins ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.176
Lowe 1b	4	1	2	3	1	2	.269
Martínez lf	5	0	1	2	0	2	.228
Rocchio ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.257
Halpin cf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.219
Bailey c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.195
Genao 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.556
Totals	37	6	10	6	4	12	

Mets	032 010 340 —	13	18	0
Cleveland	200 030 001 —	6	10	0

LOB: New York 11, Cleveland 8. **2B:** Bichette (17), Semien (9), Alvarez (10). **3B:** Benge (3). **HR:** Semien (13), off Griffin; Torrens (4), off Griffin; Lindor (10), off Yoho; Lowe (13), off McLean. **RBIs:** Semien 2 (37), Torrens 3 (27), Benge (44), Young 2 (22), Lindor 3 (28), Alvarez (28), Bichette (56), Martínez 2 (36), Lowe 3 (42), DeLauter (56). **SB:** Bazzana (17), Young 2 (3). **SF:** Semien. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 7 (Ewing 2, Robert 4, Alvarez); Cleveland 5 (Martínez, Ramírez, Bailey 3). **RISP:** New York 5 for 13; Cleveland 5 for 11.

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McLean, W, 8-7	5.0	8	5	5	3	8	94	3.51
Lavender, H, 2	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	0.00
Senga	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	8.29
Curry	2.0	2	1	1	1	0	28	3.46

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Griffin, L, 12-4	4.0	7	5	5	2	6	88	3.31
Festa	1.0	2	1	1	1	0	22	4.37
Holderman	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	24	1.61
Yoho	1.0	3	3	3	0	1	21	3.91
Cecconi	0.0	3	4	4	2	0	30	5.07
Herrin	0.2	1	0	0	1	2	23	3.68
Hedges	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	7	0.00

T: 3:02. **A:** 26,764 (34,788).

Reds 6, Athletics 5

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bolte cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.259
White 1b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.278
Heim dh	3	1	1	0	1	1	.229
Soderstrom lf	4	0	1	2	0	1	.245
Muncy 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.220
Butler rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.209
Serven c	4	1	1	2	0	0	.250
Williams ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Ornelas 2b	3	0	1	0	1	2	.250
Totals	34	5	9	4	2	6	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	5	1	1	1	0	1	.276
Stewart 1b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.257
Bleday lf	3	1	2	1	1	1	.230
Stephenson c	4	1	1	1	0	2	.252
Suárez 3b	2	0	1	1	2	1	.202
Hayes pr-3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.139
Myers cf	3	0	0	1	1	3	.263
Rodríguez dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.000
Marte rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.197
McLain 2b	3	1	0	0	0	2	.190
Totals	31	6	8	6	5	13	

Athletics	000 300 002 —	5	9	0
Cincinnati	100 220 10x —	6	8	1

E: De La Cruz (11). **LOB:** Athletics 4, Cincinnati 7. **2B:** Suárez (13). **HR:** Serven (2), off Burke; De La Cruz (19), off Barnett; Stewart (25), off Barnett; Stephenson (10), off Barnett; Bleday (20), off S.Johnson. **RBIs:** Soderstrom 2 (52), Serven 2 (4), De La Cruz (53), Stewart (87), Stephenson (33), Suárez (40), Myers (17), Bleday (47). **SB:** McLain (13). **CS:** Bleday (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Athletics 1 (Serven); Cincinnati 4 (Rodríguez 2, Marte, Myers). **RISP:** Athletics 3 for 5; Cincinnati 1 for 5.

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Barnett, L, 1-2	4.1	5	5	5	3	7	82	5.56
Alvarado	0.2	0	0	0	2	2	19	4.58
Basso	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5.06
S.Johnson	2.0	3	1	1	0	4	42	5.40

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Abbott, W, 6-7	6.2	7	3	3	2	4	88	3.92
P.Johnson, H, 6	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	18	4.81
Moll, H, 6	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	6	4.14
Burke, S, 2-2	1.0	2	2	2	0	1	22	2.73

T: 2:40. **A:** 17,617 (43,891).

Cubs 3, Blue Jays 2, 11 inn.

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Straw cf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.225
Okamoto 1b	4	1	1	0	1	2	.229
Kirk c	5	0	4	1	0	0	.255
Valenzuela pr-c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.235
Springer dh	5	0	0	0	0	0	.234
Lukes rf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.261
Clement 3b-2b	5	0	2	0	0	0	.287
Urías 2b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.250
Smith 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.204
Schneider lf	1	0	0	0	2	0	.144
Sánchez ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.268
Giménez ss	4	1	3	0	1	0	.235
Totals	41	2	11	1	4	7	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	5	2	2	0	0	2	.289
Suzuki dh	4	0	0	0	1	1	.270
Busch 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.241
Bregman 3b	4	1	2	2	0	1	.248
Happ lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Taylor pr-lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.238
Hoerner 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.260
Conforto rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.227
Swanson ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.217
Amaya c	1	0	1	0	1	0	.238
Ramirez ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.292
Kelly c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Totals	35	3	5	2	3	12	

Toronto	100 000 100 00 —	2	11	1
Chicago	000 000 002 01 —	3	5	0

.**E:** Valenzuela (9). **LOB:** Toronto 13, Chicago 6. **2B:** Urías (3), Giménez (17). **HR:** Bregman (12), off Varland. **RBIs:** Kirk (16), Bregman 2 (50). **SB:** Bregman (3), Giménez 2 (15), Suzuki (2). **S:** Straw. **Runners left in scoring position:** Toronto 9 (Lukes 3, Kirk, Straw 4, Clement); Chicago 4 (Busch, Kelly 2, Happ). **RISP:** Toronto 1 for 19; Chicago 2 for 9.

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cease	7.0	2	0	0	1	10	104	2.28
Fisher, H, 11	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	3.86
Varland, BS, 24-25	1.0	2	2	2	0	0	21	1.38
Lee	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	10	5.06
Little, L, 0-3	0.1	1	1	1	1	0	8	12.15

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peterson	5.0	7	1	1	3	3	89	5.35
Rolison	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	14	2.35
Civale	3.0	4	1	1	0	3	45	5.14
Thielbar	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4.84
Thornton, W, 5-4	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	12	2.78

T: 3:21. **A:** 39,476 (41,363).

Braves 11, Marlins 3

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lopez ss	5	0	1	0	0	0	.318
Hernández lf	5	0	0	0	0	3	.229
Ramírez dh	3	0	1	0	1	1	.227
Marsee cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.199
Edwards 2b	2	1	1	0	2	0	.288
Jiménez 3b	3	1	1	0	1	0	.209
Stowers 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.232
Sanoja rf-cf-p	4	0	2	2	0	0	.269
Ruiz cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.258
Conine ph-rf	3	0	1	1	0	1	.257
Navarreto c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.118
Totals	33	3	8	3	4	8	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Baldwin c	5	1	1	0	0	0	.271
Acuña rf	5	2	2	3	0	0	.244
Olson 1b	3	3	2	1	2	0	.269
Harris cf	5	3	3	2	0	0	.293
Dubón 2b	4	1	4	2	1	0	.269
Yastrzemski lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Thomas ph-lf	3	1	1	1	0	1	.229
Smith dh	2	0	1	0	0	0	.268
Albies ph-dh	1	0	0	0	1	0	.261
Riley 3b	3	0	0	1	0	1	.221
Jarvis ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Totals	37	11	14	10	4	4	

Miami	000 000 201 —	3	8	3
Atlanta	002 004 23x —	11	14	0

E: Navarreto (1), Edwards (7), Sanoja (10). **LOB:** Miami 8, Atlanta 7. **2B:** Edwards (15), Stowers (21), Sanoja (23), Olson (29), Harris (24), Thomas (17), Dubón (22). **3B:** Harris (1). **HR:** Acuña (10), off Junk; Olson (32), off King; Acuña (11), off Gibson. **RBIs:** Sanoja 2 (39), Conine (22), Acuña 3 (27), Olson (70), Thomas (38), Riley (56), Harris 2 (66), Dubón 2 (58). **RISP:** Miami 4 for 10; Atlanta 4 for 11.

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Junk, L, 5-7	3.0	5	2	2	1	1	47	4.63
Zuber	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	17	3.98
King	1.0	4	4	3	1	0	25	3.13
Vodnik	2.0	2	2	2	1	1	32	5.54
Gibson	0.2	2	3	1	0	0	19	5.70
Sanoja	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	4	0.00

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
M.Pérez	3.0	0	0	0	1	3	35	3.14
Kinley	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	14	4.12
Mederos, W, 2-0	2.0	0	0	0	1	3	32	3.31
Young	0.2	3	2	2	1	1	26	6.10
Lee, H, 25	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2.06
Suter	2.0	4	1	1	1	1	36	4.13

T: 2:27. **A:** 33,500 (41,149).

Tigers 11, Mariners 0

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McGonigle 3b	3	3	2	2	1	1	.284
Malgeri ph-rf	1	0	1	0	1	0	.286
Torres 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.268
Lee 2b-3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.263
Dingler c	6	2	3	3	0	2	.278
Greene lf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.276
Outman ph-lf	1	1	1	0	0	0	.173
Keith dh	5	1	3	2	0	1	.275
Torkelson 1b	4	1	1	0	1	2	.218
Clark cf	5	0	1	1	0	2	.333
Báez ss	5	0	2	2	0	0	.286
McKinstry rf-2b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.216
Totals	43	11	16	10	4	11	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ward rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.245
Arozarena lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.285
Canzone dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.254
Rodríguez cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.258
Young 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.263
Wilson 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.209
Pereda c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.258
Rivas 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.133
Emerson ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.201
Totals	30	0	7	0	2	7	

Detroit	310 000 403 —	11	16	0
Seattle	000 000 000 —	0	7	1

E: Ward (3). **LOB:** Detroit 10, Seattle 5. **2B:** Greene (25), Keith (14). **HR:** Dingler (26), off Miller; McGonigle (12), off Wilcox. **RBIs:** Dingler 3 (78), Keith 2 (31), McGonigle 2 (44), Clark (4), Báez 2 (13). **Runners left in scoring position:** Detroit 5 (Báez, Dingler 4); Seattle 1 (Rodríguez). **RISP:** Detroit 7 for 15; Seattle 0 for 2.

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Valdez, W, 7-7	7.0	5	0	0	2	5	95	4.17
Finnegan	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	5	3.42
Hanifee	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	11	5.06

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Miller, L, 4-6	5.0	5	4	4	2	5	93	3.08
Rucker	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	3.97
Wilcox	0.2	3	4	3	1	1	29	4.00
Simpson	1.1	3	0	0	0	3	33	5.06
Robles	1.0	5	3	3	1	0	26	27.00

T: 2:44. **A:** 26,750 (47,929).

Angels 4, Orioles 1

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Meckler lf	5	2	2	0	0	0	.310
Trout dh	4	0	0	0	1	2	.239
Schanuel 1b	3	1	0	1	1	0	.273
Neto ss	5	1	2	3	0	1	.230
Grissom 3b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.261
Guzman 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Ballesteros c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.228
Siri cf	3	0	2	0	1	1	.267
Lowe rf	2	0	0	0	2	2	.201
Peraza 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.233
Totals	34	4	9	4	5	7	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Beavers lf	3	0	1	0	1	2	.244
Alonso 1b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.249
Henderson dh	1	0	0	0	3	0	.218
Encarnacion-Strand 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Holliday ss	3	0	0	0	1	1	.240
Taveras rf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.220
O'Neill ph-rf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.219
Jackson 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.240
Cowser cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.203
Franklin ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Pozo c	3	1	1	1	0	0	.238
Mayo ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.205
Totals	27	1	4	1	8	9	

Los Angeles	003 000 100 —	4	9	0
Baltimore	001 000 000 —	1	4	1

E: Young (1). **LOB:** Los Angeles 9, Baltimore 8. **2B:** Grissom (16), Siri (6). **HR:** Neto (20), off Young; Pozo (1), off Johnson. **RBIs:** Neto 3 (50), Schanuel (38), Pozo (7). **CS:** Beavers (5). **SF:** Schanuel. **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 6 (Grissom, Meckler 2, Peraza 3); Baltimore 3 (Holliday 2, Cowser). **RISP:** Los Angeles 2 for 15; Baltimore 0 for 3.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Johnson	4.2	3	1	1	5	1	78	7.11
Farris, W, 1-3	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	20	4.18
Murphy, H, 2	1.1	0	0	0	1	3	21	0.00
Saucedo, H, 3	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	11	4.50
Natera, S, 2-2	1.1	1	0	0	0	2	23	2.16

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Young, L, 8-3	4.1	6	3	3	2	4	98	3.43
Walker	1.2	1	0	0	1	1	19	3.55
Hiraldo	1.0	1	1	1	1	2	21	11.25
Suárez	2.0	1	0	0	1	0	24	4.02

T: 2:53. **A:** 21,202 (45,971).

Brewers 5, Pirates 2

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.298
Lowe 2b	3	1	1	1	1	2	.255
Reynolds lf	3	1	0	0	1	3	.266
Rodríguez dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.269
Horwitz 1b	3	0	1	1	1	0	.271
Gonzales 3b	3	0	2	0	0	0	.309
Simon rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Gonzalez ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Triolo ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Davis c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.170
Totals	29	2	6	2	4	9	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.266
Chourio lf	3	1	1	1	1	0	.277
Mitchell cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.257
Vaughn 1b	4	0	1	1	0	2	.299
Yelich dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.231
Lara rf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.224
Sánchez c	3	1	2	1	0	0	.223
Hamilton 3b	2	1	0	0	1	2	.233
Pratt ss	2	1	1	1	0	0	.289
Totals	29	5	7	5	2	10	

Pittsburgh	000 200 000 —	2	6	0
Milwaukee	101 021 00x —	5	7	0

LOB: Pittsburgh 5, Milwaukee 3. **2B:** Mangum (12), Pratt (5), Mitchell (24). **HR:** Lowe (24), off May; Chourio (15), off Ashcraft; Sánchez (9), off Ashcraft. **RBIs:** Lowe (72), Horwitz (37), Chourio (45), Pratt (17), Sánchez (27), Turang (70), Vaughn (33). **SB:** Hamilton (21). **CS:** Chourio (2). **SF:** Pratt. **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 2 (Reynolds, Rodríguez); Milwaukee 1 (Hamilton). **RISP:** Pittsburgh 1 for 6; Milwaukee 2 for 3.

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ashcraft, L, 11-5	5.0	4	4	4	1	5	82	4.08
Soto	1.0	3	1	1	0	3	23	3.70
Doval	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	14	4.43
Yates	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	3.68

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
May, W, 6-7	6.0	3	2	2	3	5	97	4.30
Hall, H, 4	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	6	2.67
Ashby, H, 10	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	19	3.68
Patrick, S, 5-6	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	16	3.38

T: 2:27. **A:** 38,145 (41,700).

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 1

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	4	2	1	0	1	0	.280
Rengifo lf	5	0	3	0	0	0	.241
Bowen pr-lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.155
Machado 3b	4	1	0	1	1	1	.210
France 1b	4	0	2	1	0	1	.291
Merrill cf	5	1	2	1	0	1	.241
Bogaerts ss	3	0	2	0	1	0	.227
Sheets dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.212
Fermin c	4	0	1	1	0	0	.187
Cronenworth 2b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.218
Totals	36	5	12	4	3	4	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Perdomo ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.242
Carroll rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.245
Moreno c	4	0	3	1	0	0	.302
Marte 2b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.248
Nootbaar dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.232
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.241
Kepler lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.220
Tawa 1b	4	0	1	0	0	3	.232
Waldschmidt cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.293
Totals	34	1	8	1	1	10	

San Diego	102 001 100 —	5	12	0
Arizona	001 000 000 —	1	8	0

LOB: San Diego 9, Arizona 7. **2B:** Tatis (24), France 2 (15), Cronenworth (6), Moreno (19), Carroll (23). **RBIs:** Machado (70), France (50), Fermin (16), Merrill (55), Moreno (50). **SF:** France. **Runners left in scoring position:** San Diego 7 (Merrill 3, Tatis 3, Sheets); Arizona 4 (Nootbaar, Tawa, Arenado 2). **RISP:** San Diego 4 for 15; Arizona 2 for 5.

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Buehler	4.0	6	1	1	1	3	76	5.07
B.Rodriguez, W, 3-2	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	25	2.29
Estrada	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	3.65
Morejon	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	16	2.95
Miller	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	17	0.74

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Drake, L, 0-1	3.2	6	3	3	1	1	82	5.40
Loáisiga	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	18	2.72
Abner	3.0	4	2	2	2	1	52	6.57
Morillo	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	7	2.49

T: 2:47. **A:** 21,884 (48,359).

Phillies 7, Nationals 3

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crews rf-cf	5	0	1	0	0	4	.221
Chaparro 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.213
Ortiz ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.250
House 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.228
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.287
Ford dh	4	1	1	0	0	1	.188
Pinckney lf	2	1	1	1	0	0	.500
Lile ph-lf-rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Young cf	2	1	2	1	0	0	.242
Tena ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Nuñez 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.233
Ruiz c	3	0	2	1	1	0	.270
Totals	**34**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**3**	**12**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schwarber dh	5	0	2	1	0	2	.243
Turner ss	5	1	2	0	0	0	.252
Harper rf	3	2	2	0	1	0	.255
De La Cruz rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.429
Arraez 2b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.326
Bohm 1b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.227
Marsh lf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.280
Realmuto c	4	2	2	1	0	0	.226
Stott 3b	3	1	2	1	1	0	.260
Crawford cf	3	0	1	1	0	1	.264
Totals	**35**	**7**	**16**	**7**	**2**	**3**	

Washington	**010 101 000 —**	**3**	**8**	**0**
Philadelphia	**213 001 00x —**	**7**	**16**	**0**

LOB: Washington 8, Philadelphia 7. **2B:** Ford (3), Arraez (25), Bohm (17), Realmuto (14), Turner (20), Harper (22), Marsh (17), Stott 2 (24). **3B:** Young (3). **HR:** Pinckney (1), off Sánchez. **RBIs:** Young (39), Pinckney (1), Ruiz (38), Arraez (47), Bohm (62), Crawford (29), Marsh (51), Realmuto (38), Stott (52), Schwarber (64). **S:** Crawford. **Runners left in scoring position:** Washington 4 (House, Ford 2, Chaparro); Philadelphia 2 (Crawford, Marsh). **RISP:** Washington 2 for 9; Philadelphia 6 for 11.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mikolas, L, 3-9	5.0	12	6	6	1	1	93	5.89
Kranick	2.0	4	1	1	0	0	31	8.22
Williams	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	15	0.00

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sánchez, W, 15-4	5.0	6	2	2	2	6	98	2.65
Kerkering	1.0	2	1	1	1	3	29	3.40
Alvarado	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	5.44
Bowlan	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	2.88
Duran	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	1.83

T: 2:42. **A:** 40,301 (42,901).

Twins 4, Royals 3

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.281
Martin ph-lf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.236
Keaschall cf	4	1	1	0	1	0	.263
Clemens 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.234
Jeffers ph-c	1	1	0	0	1	0	.281
Bell dh	3	0	1	1	1	0	.246
Jackson pr-dh	1	1	0	0	0	1	.303
Lewis 1b-2b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.233
Lee 3b	4	0	1	2	0	0	.240
Roden rf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.222
Caratini c-1b	2	0	0	0	2	1	.226
Gray ss	3	0	0	0	1	1	.225
Kreidler ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Totals	**33**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**7**	**4**	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.228
Witt ss	4	2	3	0	0	0	.286
Caglianone 1b	4	0	1	2	0	0	.254
Perez dh	3	0	1	1	1	0	.215
Tolbert pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.325
Massey 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Collins lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.238
Rave rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.263
Loftin ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.249
Rojas 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.234
Isbel cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.243
Totals	**32**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**1**	**4**	

Minnesota	**000 010 030 —**	**4**	**7**	**0**
Kansas City	**002 001 000 —**	**3**	**7**	**0**

LOB: Minnesota 10, Kansas City 3. **2B:** Roden (1), Witt (24). **HR:** Lewis (13), off Wacha. **RBIs:** Lewis (38), Bell (65), Lee 2 (60), Caglianone 2 (45), Perez (48). **SB:** Witt (31). **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 6 (Keaschall 2, Lewis, Larnach, Gray 2); Kansas City 0. **RISP:** Minnesota 3 for 12; Kansas City 2 for 3.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ober	6.0	6	3	3	0	0	74	4.45
Funderburk, W, 3-1	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	20	3.09
Morris, H, 17	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	3.19
Gómez, S, 15-15	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	18	3.35

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wacha	5.2	3	1	1	3	1	94	3.44
Cuas, H, 1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	12	2.70
Lange, H, 2	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	12	6.11
Bummer, L, 1-2, H, 5	0.1	2	3	3	1	0	20	10.26
Pearson, BS, 1-2	0.2	1	0	0	1	1	18	2.92
McGee	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	15	1.69

T: 2:52. **A:** 16,036 (38,427).

Red Sox 12, White Sox 11, 13 inn.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Meidroth 2b	5	2	3	4	2	1	.275
Murakami 1b	6	0	0	0	1	3	.236
Vargas 3b	6	2	0	0	1	3	.236
Grichuk dh	2	1	1	0	0	0	.261
Benintendi ph-dh	5	1	1	0	0	1	.246
C.Montgomery ss	5	1	2	2	1	1	.216
Bart c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.214
Romo pr-c	3	1	0	0	0	1	.129
Doyle cf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.221
Peters ph-cf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.263
B.Montgomery rf	5	2	1	1	1	1	.228
Acuña lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.243
Antonacci ph-lf	5	0	3	2	0	1	.278
Totals	**50**	**11**	**13**	**9**	**7**	**14**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Sogard 1b	5	2	1	0	1	1	.242
Rafaela cf	7	0	2	0	0	2	.287
Abreu rf	5	1	1	2	1	2	.253
Durbin 3b	6	2	3	1	1	2	.251
Yoshida dh	4	1	2	1	1	1	.269
ones pr-dh	1	1	1	0	0	0	.173
Monasterio ss	6	1	2	2	0	1	.268
Duran lf	5	1	0	0	1	2	.204
Seigler 2b	4	1	2	3	1	0	.240
Wong c	3	1	2	2	0	0	.252
White pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.231
Rogers c	0	0	0	1	1	0	.163
Totals	**46**	**12**	**16**	**12**	**7**	**11**	

Chicago	**004 120 000 211 0 —**	**11**	**13**	**1**
Boston	**002 301 001 211 1 —**	**12**	**16**	**2**

E: Meidroth (6), Rafaela (2), Slaten (1). **LOB:** Chicago 14, Boston 13. **2B:** Antonacci (15), Monasterio 2 (21), Seigler (10), Durbin (21), Yoshida (13), Wong (10). **HR:** Meidroth (10), off Suarez; Meidroth (11), off Chapman; Wong (3), off Castillo. **RBIs:** Meidroth 4 (44), C.Montgomery 2 (65), Antonacci 2 (34), B.Montgomery (22), Wong 2 (19), Monasterio 2 (28), Seigler 3 (12), Yoshida (24), Abreu 2 (59), Rogers (10), Durbin (51). **SB:** Doyle (10), Abreu (7), Rafaela (16), Vargas (12). **CS:** Rafaela (7), Abreu (4). **RISP:** Chicago 7 for 24; Boston 8 for 23.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Castillo	4.0	6	5	5	1	5	71	5.30
Hudson	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	13	2.83
Hicks, H, 6	0.2	2	1	1	0	1	16	3.31
Taylor, H, 8	2.0	1	0	0	1	2	40	2.31
Brazobán, BS, 0-4	1.1	2	1	1	0	1	20	2.62
Richards, BS, 0-2	1.2	3	3	1	4	0	28	3.47
Murphy	1.1	0	1	0	0	0	14	4.20
Fedde, L, 6-7	0.1	1	1	0	1	0	5	4.34

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Suarez	3.0	3	4	3	2	3	70	3.32
Weissert	1.0	2	1	1	1	3	34	3.97
Slaten	1.0	3	2	1	0	2	17	4.55
Guerrero	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.17
Miller	2.0	1	0	0	1	3	33	2.57
Morán	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	14	2.68
Chapman	1.0	1	2	1	0	0	18	1.86
Whitlock	1.0	0	1	0	0	1	13	1.88
Bello, W, 4-6	2.0	3	1	0	1	1	28	4.97

T: 4:23. **A:** 37,082 (37,755).

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	19	11	.633	—
Indiana	19	12	.613	½
Liberty	19	13	.594	1
Washington	17	12	.586	1½
Chicago	12	19	.387	7½
Toronto	10	20	.333	9
Connecticut	7	23	.233	12
West	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Minnesota	25	7	.781	—
Las Vegas	22	9	.710	2½
Golden State	21	9	.700	3
Dallas	19	12	.613	5½
Los Angeles	12	18	.400	12
Phoenix	12	20	.375	13
Portland	11	19	.367	13
Seattle	6	27	.182	19½

Thursday
Las Vegas 86, Indiana 84, OT
Los Angeles 89, Minnesota 82
Portland 97, Toronto 83

Friday
Atlanta at Washington, 7:30pm
Phoenix at Connecticut, 7:30pm
Golden State at Dallas, 9:30pm

Saturday
Las Vegas at Minnesota, 1pm
Indiana at Chicago, 3:30pm
Seattle at Portland, 8:30pm

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	12	2	4	40	35	14
Inter Miami CF	11	2	5	38	45	32
New England	9	5	3	30	28	21
Chicago	9	6	2	29	32	23
NYCFC	7	6	5	26	31	24
Cincinnati	7	6	5	26	45	44
Charlotte FC	7	7	4	25	29	27
Red Bulls	7	7	4	25	29	39
D.C. United	5	5	8	23	26	29
Orlando City	6	10	2	20	30	47
Columbus	5	8	5	20	26	28
Toronto FC	3	7	8	17	24	32
Philadelphia	4	10	4	16	25	33
CF Montréal	4	10	4	16	24	35
Atlanta	3	12	3	12	19	33
WEST	**W**	**L**	**D**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Vancouver	10	3	4	34	38	17
Los Angeles FC	10	5	4	34	35	19
San Jose	10	5	3	33	37	24
Houston	9	6	2	29	25	24
Real Salt Lake	8	6	3	27	29	25
FC Dallas	7	5	6	27	32	25
St Louis City	7	6	5	26	24	24
Portland	7	8	3	24	33	33
Seattle FC	7	7	3	24	20	22
Minn. United	6	6	6	24	20	25
Colorado	7	10	1	22	27	25
LA Galaxy	5	7	7	22	24	29
San Diego FC	5	7	6	21	32	29
Austin FC	4	9	5	17	22	36
Sporting K.C.	4	12	2	14	18	46

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday
Houston at New England, 4:30pm

Saturday, August 15
Red Bulls at Atlanta, 7:30pm
Columbus at Charlotte FC, 7:30pm
D.C. United at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Cincinnati at Orlando City, 7:30pm
New England at Toronto FC, 7:30pm
LA Galaxy at Houston, 8:30pm
Miami at Nashville, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at Colorado, 9:30pm
Minnesota at Salt Lake, 9:30pm
San Diego FC at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
St Louis City at San Jose, 10:30pm

Sunday, August 16
Philadelphia at **NYCFC**, 6pm
Portland at Chicago, 6pm
FC Dallas at Austin FC, 8:30pm
Vancouver at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

NFL Exhibition

Thursday
Carolina 33, Arizona 30

Thursday, Aug. 13
Detroit at Cincinnati, 7pm
Green Bay at Pittsburgh, 7pm
Indianapolis at New England, 7:30pm
Arizona at Las Vegas, 8pm
L.A. Chargers at Houston, 8pm
Tennessee at San Francisco, 9pm

Friday, Aug. 14
Tampa Bay at **Jets**, 7pm
Denver at Atlanta, 7pm
Miami at Washington, 7pm

Saturday, Aug. 15
Minnesota at **Giants**, 1pm
Carolina at Buffalo, 1pm
Cleveland at Chicago, 1pm
Jacksonville at New Orleans, 4pm
L.A. Rams at Kansas City, 4pm
Philadelphia at Baltimore, 7pm
Dallas at Seattle, 8pm

Golf

LIV Golf New York
At Trump National Golf Club; Bedminster
Bedminster, N.J.; Purse: $20M
Yardage: 7,651; Par: 71
First Round

Joaquin Niemann	64	-7
Ian Poulter	66	-5
Lucas Herbert	66	-5
Brendan Steele	68	-3
Thomas Pieters	68	-3
Lee Westwood	69	-2
Bubba Watson	69	-2
Scott Vincent	69	-2
Harold Varner III	69	-2
Yosuke Asaji	70	-1
Sergio Garcia	70	-1
Paul Casey	70	-1
Tom McKibbin	70	-1
Dustin Johnson	71	E
Travis Smyth	71	E
Danny Lee	71	E
Jose Luis Ballester	71	E
Dean Burmester	71	E
Peter Uihlein	71	E
Marc Leishman	71	E
David Puig	71	E
Carlos Ortiz	71	E
Abraham Ancer	71	E
Michael La Sasso	72	+1
Matthew Wolff	72	+1
Young-Han Song	72	+1
Jon Rahm	72	+1
Byeong-Hun An	72	+1
Miguel Tabuena	73	+2
Richard Bland	73	+2
Victor Perez	73	+2
Branden Grace	73	+2
Laurie Canter	73	+2
Tyrrell Hatton	73	+2
Richard T. Lee	73	+2
Martin Vorster	74	+3
Min-Kyu Kim	74	+3
Talor Gooch	74	+3
Sebastian Munoz	74	+3
Cameron Tringale	74	+3
Martin Kaymer	74	+3
Anirban Lahiri	74	+3
Adrian Meronk	75	+4
Charl Schwartzel	75	+4
Bjoern Hellgren	75	+4
Anthony Kim	75	+4
Charles Howell III	75	+4
Cameron Smith	75	+4
Do-Yeob Mun	76	+5
Ben Campbell	76	+5
Caleb Surratt	76	+5
Bryson DeChambeau	76	+5
Sam Horsfield	77	+6
Thomas Detry	77	+6
Luis Masaveu	77	+6
Jason Kokrak	79	+8
Graeme McDowell	80	+9

PGA Tour- Wyndham Championship
At Sedgefield Country Club; Greensboro, NC; Purse: $8.5M; Yardage: 7,131; Par: 70
First Round: Suspended

JBeau Hossler	61	-9
Sahith Theegala	62	-8
Ben James	62	-8
Eric Cole	63	-7
Matt Schmid	64	-6
Denny McCarthy	64	-6
Davis Thompson	64	-6
Hayden Springer	64	-6
Doug Ghim	64	-6
Zach Bauchou	64	-6

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Gotham FC	**11**	**3**	**4**	**37**	**23**	**12**
Washington	11	4	3	36	26	13
Utah Royals FC	10	5	3	33	31	19
San Diego	10	6	2	32	24	19
Kansas City	9	7	2	29	29	25
Portland	8	6	4	28	28	25
North Carolina	8	6	3	27	28	23
Angel City	7	7	2	23	24	17
Seattle	7	7	2	23	20	21
Orlando	7	9	2	23	22	26
Denver Summit FC	5	7	5	20	22	23
Boston Legacy FC	5	8	5	20	19	24
Houston	5	8	4	19	19	25
Bay FC	5	9	3	18	18	24
Louisville	4	11	2	14	21	34
Chicago	4	13	0	12	9	33

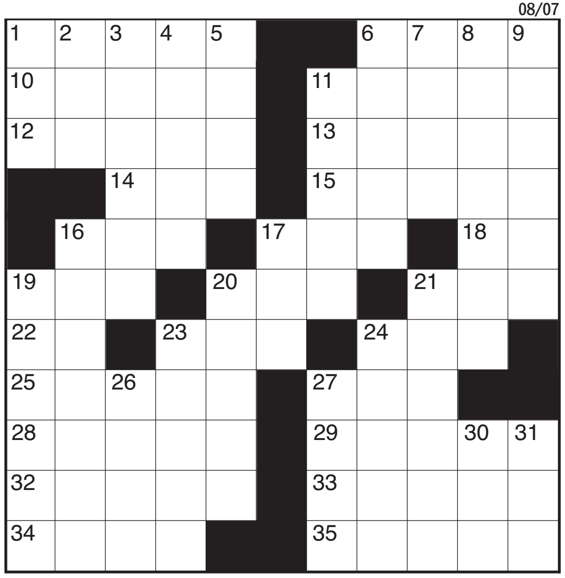
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday
Louisville at Orlando, 7pm
San Diego at **Gotham FC**, 8pm

Saturday
Utah Royals FC at Denver Summit FC, 4pm
North Carolina at Washington, 6:30pm
Kansas City at Houston, 8:45pm

Sunday
Portland at Boston Legacy FC, 4pm
Bay FC at Chicago, 7pm
Angel City at Seattle, 9pm

SPORTSCROSS



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ACROSS
1 Yank on Murderers' Row
6 Rugged cliff
10 Name on a tractor
11 Round bread
12 TE Billy won Super Bowl VI with Dallas
13 Door fastener
14 Pigpen
15 Stadium worker
16 —— Expos
17 Family dog
18 New England st.
19 Kalvoski Daniels
20 WTA netter Fairbank 1979-97
21 Batting stat.
22 Wizard's home
23 Six wins
24 Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Inst.
25 Online mag
27 2026 AJ Minter injury
28 Hurler Hector 2014-25
29 Bonnies' home
32 Mad as hell
33 Hall of Fame jockey who was a big Mets fan
34 Tanqueray & Bombay
35 OT Smith ended a a 14-year NFL career with the 2024 Jets

DOWN
1 Windy City time trio
2 —— the ramparts
3 Yank on Murderers' Row
4 Spoiled kids
5 Bartolo "Big ——" Colon
6 Take it easy
7 Yank on Murderers' Row
8 Hall of Fame NBL & NBA star who never played in college
9 Yank on Murderers' Row
11 Original Cleveland AL team
16 Yank on Murderers' Row
17 Poker money
19 Yank on Murderers' Row
20 He played on six World Series losers in Brooklyn
21 Get in the game
23 Bad moods
24 Moore had 19 wins & 13 saves for the 1927 Yankees
26 Land the US bombed
27 He led the AL with 22 wins for the 1927 Yankees
30 Prefix for compounds containing nitrogen
31 Nancy's nickname

SOLUTION IN SATURDAY'S POST

Tennis

ATP National Bank Open

At IGA Stadium; Montreal; Purse: $9,415,725; Surface: Hardcourt outdoor; (seedings in parentheses):
Men's Singles - Round of 32

Arthur Fils (18), France, def. Mariano Navone, Argentina, 6-3, 6-2.
Luciano Darderi (19), Italy, def. Juncheng Shang, China, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.
Nuno Borges, Portugal, def. Yannick Hanfmann, Germany, 6-4, 6-2.
Cameron Norrie, Britain, def. Alex de Minaur (3), Australia, 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-1.
Jiri Lehecka (8), Czechia, def. Alexander Blockx (27), Belgium, 6-3, 6-4.
Rafael Jodar (20), Spain, def. Lorenzo Musetti (11), Italy, 6-4, 6-3.
Arthur Rinderknech (23), France, def. Frances Tiafoe (15), United States, 6-2, 2-0, ret.
Brandon Nakashima (28), United States, def. Titouan Droguet, France, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

WTA National Bank Open

At Sobeys Stadium; Toronto; Purse: $7,433,076; Surface: Hardcourt outdoor; (seedings in parentheses):
Women's Singles - Round of 32

Ekaterina Alexandrova (16), Russia, def. Talia Gibson, Australia, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3.
Iga Swiatek (7), Poland, def. Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, 6-2, 6-1.
Diana Shnaider (15), Russia, def. Anna Kalinskaya (17), Russia, 6-3, 6-3.
Jessica Pegula (3), United States, def. Kamilla Rakhimova, Russia, 6-4, 6-0.
Marta Kostyuk (10), Ukraine, def. Madison Keys (19), United States, 6-3, 6-1.
Aryna Sabalenka (1), Belarus, def. Zhang Shuai, China, 6-3, 6-4.
Amanda Anisimova (8), United States, def. Nikola Bartunkova, Czechia, 3-6, 6-0, 6-4.
Elina Svitolina (9), Ukraine, def. Anastasia Potapova (24), Russia, 6-1, 6-1.

CFL

Canadian Football League
East Division

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Montreal	7	1	0	14	273	217
Toronto	4	4	0	8	253	249
Hamilton	3	5	0	6	187	234
Ottawa	0	7	0	0	166	247

West Division

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Edmonton	6	2	0	12	229	200
Saskatchewan	5	2	0	10	232	195
Calgary	4	5	0	8	353	295
Winnipeg	4	4	0	8	204	243
BC	2	5	0	4	187	201

Week 11
Thursday
Toronto 33, Calgary 30
Friday
Ottawa at Saskatchewan, 9pm
Saturday
Edmonton at Montreal, 3 pm.
Hamilton at BC, 7pm

Soccer

Leagues Cup
NYCFC 2, Santos Laguna 0
Cruz Azul 1, Philadelphia Union 0
Chicago Fire 2, Necaxa 0
Austin FC 2, Tijuana0
America 3, San Diego FC 1
Portland Timbers 5, Puebla 2
English FA Cup
Walsall 1, Bristol City 0
Club Friendly
Fiorentina 1, Deportivo La Coruna 1
AS Monaco 1, Getafe 0
Malaga 4, Al Arabi 2
UEFA Europa League Qualifying-1st Rd.
Jagiellonia Bialystok 2, Rangers 1
Besiktas 1, FC Hradec Kralove 0
RB Salzburg 1, Pafos 0
Benfica 6, Heart of Midlothian 1

The POST Line

MLB

Favorite	Friday Money Line	Underdog
YANKEES	**$132-156**	Braves
PIRATES	**$120-142**	**Mets**
RED SOX	**$210-255**	Athletics
Guardians	**$106-124**	WHITE SOX
RANGERS	**$120-143**	Orioles
Rays	**-102-116**	MARINERS
NATIONALS	**OFF**	Reds
CARDINALS	**$129-156**	Rockies
Dodgers	**$140-166**	D'BACKS
PHILLIES	**$184-220**	Blue Jays
MARLINS	**$138-166**	Angels
BREWERS	**OFF**	Twins
ROYALS	**OFF**	Cubs
Astros	**$102-121**	PADRES
GIANTS	**OFF**	Tigers

WNBA

Favorite	Friday PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Mercury	**5.5 (172.5)**	SUN
Dream	**3.5 (170.5)**	MYSTICS
WINGS	**1.5 (163.5)**	Valkyries

NFL

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
	Wed. Sept. 9	
SEAHAWKS	**3.5 (44.5)**	Patriots
	Thur. Sept. 10	
RAMS	**3.5 (48.5)**	49ers
	Sun. Sept. 13	
Cowboys	**2.5 (48.5)**	**GIANTS**
TITANS	**3 (38.5)**	**Jets**
LIONS	**7 (48.5)**	Saints
JAGUARS	**7.5 (40.5)**	Browns
Bears	**2.5 (46.5)**	PANTHERS
Bills	**1.5 (44.5)**	TEXANS
Ravens	**3.5 (48.5)**	COLTS
BENGALS	**3.5 (51.5)**	Buccaneers
STEELERS	**3 (41.5)**	Falcons
CHARGERS	**11.5 (46.5)**	Cardinals
EAGLES	**4.5 (47.5)**	Commanders
RAIDERS	**3.5 (40.5)**	Dolphins
Packers	**1.5 (45.5)**	VIKINGS
	Monday	
CHIEFS	**3 (42.5)**	Broncos

Home Teams In CAPS

TOP PLAY

Lefty Fried will give ATL fits

By DYLAN SVOBODA

Max Fried will see plenty of familiar faces when he takes the mound Friday night in The Bronx.

The Yankees left-hander will face the Braves for the first time since leaving Atlanta, where he spent the first eight seasons of his major league career and developed into one of baseball's top starting pitchers.

There will undoubtedly be some extra emotion attached to the reunion, but bettors should resist the temptation to assume Fried's former teammates will spoil the occasion.

Instead, back the southpaw to hold the Braves under control and stay below his earned runs prop.

The Braves have one of baseball's most productive lineups this season, but their overall numbers disguise a big weakness against left-handed pitching.

Atlanta entered Thursday with a 93 wRC+ against southpaws, tied for 12th worst in the majors.

The Braves were also batting just .239 against lefties.

That makes the matchup less intimidating than it initially appears for Fried, who has looked sharp since returning from a left elbow bone bruise that sidelined him since May.

His still-developing workload also works in our favor, with little reason for the Yankees to push Fried deep into Friday's game after his elbow injury.

Fried has completed six innings just once in his three starts back, limiting the number of opportunities Braves will have to do damage against him.

THE PLAY: Max Fried Under 2.5 earned runs

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'26 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Mets	Thornton (L)		2-2	2.88	2-4	–	–	0-0	2-1	17.0	3.18
Pirates	Mlodzinski (R)	(6:40pm)	6-3	3.15	6-3	0-0	4.15	1-0	1-1	16.0	1.69
Blue Jays	Soriano (R)		9-6	3.29	12-10	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-1	17.0	2.65
Phillies	Wheeler (R)	(6:40pm)	10-2	2.49	14-4	0-0	1.50	1-2	0-1	12.0	5.25
Braves	Sale (L)		12-6	2.08	13-7	0-0	0.00	7-9	3-0	19.0	1.42
Yankees	Fried (L)	(7:05pm)	4-3	3.12	7-6	–	–	0-0	0-0	13.1	2.70
Angels	Klassen (R)		0-1	11.57	0-1	–	–	–	0-1	4.2	11.57
Marlins	Phillips (R)	(7:10pm)	3-5	3.53	6-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	14.1	3.77
Twins	Prielipp (L)		3-5	4.75	6-9	0-1	1.50	0-1	1-0	16.0	3.94
Brewers	Drohan (L)	(7:40pm)	6-4	3.48	7-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-1	18.0	5.00
Cubs	TBD		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Royals	TBD	(8:10pm)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Astros	Blanco (R)		0-1	7.36	2-1	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	14.2	7.36
Padres	Ray (L)	(9:40pm)	10-6	3.08	13-8	0-0	0.00	3-3	2-0	16.0	1.12
Tigers	Montero (R)		8-6	3.17	9-9	1-0	0.00	2-0	2-1	15.2	2.87
Giants	TBD	(10:15pm)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Athletics	Perkins (R)		2-7	6.72	1-8	–	–	0-1	0-2	16.0	6.19
Red Sox	Tolle (L)	(7:10pm)	6-6	3.30	9-9	1-0	3.38	1-0	1-0	17.0	4.24
Guardians	Messick (L)		8-6	2.57	12-10	0-1	2.13	1-1	0-1	17.2	1.53
White Sox	Schultz (L)	(7:40pm)	3-8	5.82	4-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	12.0	6.75
Orioles	Baz (R)		4-10	3.86	6-16	0-0	0.00	1-1	0-1	16.2	1.62
Rangers	Eovaldi (R)	(8:15pm)	10-9	4.31	12-9	0-1	13.50	9-4	1-2	16.0	6.19
Rays	Rasmussen (R)		10-5	2.92	12-9	0-0	0.00	2-0	3-0	18.0	1.00
Mariners	Gilbert (R)	(9:45pm)	8-6	3.46	14-8	0-1	5.40	1-2	1-0	18.2	4.34
Reds	Abbott (L)		6-7	3.92	12-12	0-0	0.00	0-1	1-1	17.2	4.08
Nationals	Cavalli (R)	(6:45pm)	8-5	3.52	10-14	0-0	0.00	0-1	2-1	18.0	2.00
Rockies	Feltner (R)		4-5	5.75	7-9	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-2	13.1	11.48
Cardinals	Leahy (R)	(8:15pm)	7-4	3.44	9-12	1-0	2.57	1-0	0-0	18.0	2.00
Dodgers	Sasaki (R)		5-5	4.64	11-8	0-0	9.00	0-0	2-0	18.0	1.50
D'backs	Kelly (R)	(9:40pm)	8-9	5.04	8-12	0-0	0.00	0-11	1-1	15.2	4.02

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

SPORTS SHORTS

NBA: Shanks departs Knicks

At least one Knicks assistant won't be back next year.

Carson Shanks, who spent the past three years with the Knicks as an assistant, won't be returning. His contract expired this offseason, according to a league source.

He most recently served as the team's assistant director of video/analytics and player development. A 7-footer who played college basketball at North Dakota and Loyola Chicago, he often worked with the team's big men in warmups.

All of coach **Mike Brown**'s front-of-the-bench assistants are expected to be back next year, though there could be some other movement further down the pecking order.

— *Jared Schwartz*

SOCCER: NYCFC tops Santos Laguna

Tayvon Gray scored the opening goal in the 50th minute and **Nico Cavallo** added a 66th minute tally to help New York City FC earn a 2-0 victory over Liga MX's Santos Laguna in the Leagues Cup held at Sports illustrated Stadium in Harrison, N.J.

NYCFC earned three points in the first match of the group stage and will next host Cruz Azul in Harrison on Sunday.

NFL: Gibbs gets highest RB deal

The Lions have agreed to a contract extension with **Jahmyr Gibbs**, a three-year deal worth up to $75.7 million that his agents say makes him the NFL's newest highest-paid running back. His agents also noted the new contract includes $51.5 million guaranteed for the Pro Bowler.

● The Colts announced a contract extension for workhorse running back **Jonathan Taylor**. Multiple media outlets reported it's a two-year, $44 million extension worth up to $47 million.

● In Canton, Ohio, rookie quarterback **Haynes King** quarterback ran in from the 5 on the final play to give the Panthers a 33-30 win over the Cardinals in the Hall of Fame game that kicked off the NFL preseason.

MLB: Red Sox outlast White Sox

Caleb Durbin lined a single to center field off Chicago's **Erick Fedde** in the 13th inning to score **Nick Sogard** and the Red Sox rallied to beat the White Sox 12-11 in a game that lasted more than four hours.

● In Chicago, **Pete Crow-Armstrong** scored on a throwing error in the 11th inning after **Alex Bregman** hit a two-strike, two-out homer in the ninth, and the Cubs rallied for a 3-2 win over the Blue Jays.

GOLF: Niemann takes LIV lead

Joaquin Niemann used a hot start to fire a 7-under-par 64 and take the first-round lead at LIV Golf New York in Bedminster, N.J. The Chilean started on Trump National Golf Club's usual first hole, birdied four of his first five holes and reached 5 under with a birdie at the par-5 eighth.

● In Greensboro, N.C., **Beau Hossler** rode a stellar finish to a 9-under-par 61 and held a one-shot lead when the first round of the Wyndham Championship was suspended late due to inclement weather.

NCAA: Belichick's son on leave

North Carolina defensive coordinator **Steve Belichick**, the son of head coach **Bill Belichick**, is on indefinite medical leave and not with the team as the Tar Heels continue their preseason practices, Bill told reporters Thursday. No further details on his health were disclosed.

STITCHES

Back Zack and Philly

The Phillies host the Blue Jays this weekend. Former Angel José Soriano makes his Jays debut after being dealt at the deadline. Soriano shut out the Giants in San Francisco, scattering three hits. It was his first win since June 13, which was seven starts ago. The Phillies' Zack Wheeler is 10-2 but has surrendered five runs in his past five frames. We say Wheeler returns to form while the Philly bats make Soriano uncomfortable in his new blue suit. Play $50 on Wheeler and the Phillies.

-$

Heavenly! We bet on the Angels, the worst team in baseball, and they beat the Orioles 4-1. The Halos' Ryan Johnson pitched well for 4 $^{2}/_{3}$ innings. Zach Neto smacked a three-run homer off Baltimore's Brandon Young. Call off the search party. The lost Stitches has been found. Our three-game winning streak has us at -555 messersmiths.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY Aug. 7	SAT Aug. 8	SUN Aug. 9	MON Aug. 10	TUE Aug. 11
	Atlanta 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Atlanta 3:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Atlanta 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	NO GAME	Seattle 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Pittsburgh 6:40 PIX11 880 AM	Pittsburgh 6:40 SNY 880 AM	Pittsburgh 1:35 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 7:15 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 7:15 SNY 880 AM
	NO GAME	NO GAME	Las Vegas 12:30 ABC	NO GAME	Indiana 7:30 ESPN

Saturday, Aug. 15	Sunday	Today
Atlanta United 7:30 Apple TV	Cruz Azul 7:30 Fox/Apple TV Univision	SD Wave FC 8:00 Prime Video

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL		
6:40 p.m.	Mets at Pirates	PIX11, 880 AM
7:05 p.m.	Braves at Yankees	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
7:30 p.m.	Guardians at White Sox	MLBN
8 p.m.	Orioles at Rangers	Apple TV
9:30 p.m.	Rays at Mariners	Apple TV
10:30 p.m.	Astros at Padres (joined in progress)	MLBN
NWSL WOMEN'S SOCCER		
8 p.m.	San Diego Wave FC at Gotham FC	Prime Video
WNBA BASKETBALL		
7:30 p.m.	Dream at Mystics	ION
9:30 p.m.	Valkyries at Wings	ION
MEN'S SOCCER		
7 p.m.	Canadian Premier League: Vancouver FC at Forge	FS2
8 p.m.	Leagues Cup: Pumas UNAM at FC Cincinnati	Apple TV, UniMas
9:55 p.m.	CONCACAF U-20 Championship Semifinal: Canada vs. Mexico	FS1
GOLF		
9 a.m.	Ladies Euro Tour: PIF London Championship, 2nd Round	Golf
2 p.m.	LIV Golf League: 2nd Round	Fox
3 p.m.	PGA Tour: Wyndham Championship, 2nd Round	Golf
7 p.m.	2026 U.S. Women's Amateur: Round of 32 and 16	Golf
CFL FOOTBALL		
9 p.m.	Ottawa Redblacks at Saskatchewan Roughriders	CBSSN
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS		
10 p.m.	PFL: Main Card- Battle vs. Rosta	ESPN
TENNIS		
11 a.m.	ATP/WTA Canada, Singles 3rd Round, Doubles 1st Round	Tennis
HOCKEY		
2 p.m.	2026 Hlinka Gretzky Cup Semifinal: Slovakia vs. U.S.	NHLN
7 p.m.	2026 Hlinka Gretzky Cup Semifinal: Finland vs. Canada	NHLN
LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES		
3 p.m.	Lake Mary, Fla. Vs. Snohomish, Wash.	ESPN2
6 p.m.	Guayama, Puerto Rico/Owensboro, Ky. vs. Toms River, N.J.	ESPN2
AUTO RACING		
4:30 p.m.	Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix of Portland: Practice	FS2
5:30 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: OnlyBulls Grand Prix of Portland: Practice	FS1
7 p.m.	ARCA Menards Series: JR&CO 150	FS1
HORSE RACING		
1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
4:30 p.m.	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
5:30 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
GYMNASTICS		
10 p.m.	USGA: 2026 Xfinity U.S. Gymnastics Championships	NBCSN
BEACH VOLLEYBALL		
7 p.m.	AVP League: Week 8	CBSSN
AFL FOOTBALL		
2 a.m. (Sat.)	Sydney at Port Adelaide	FS2
2:30 a.m. (Sat.)	Essendon at Geelong	FS1

ODDS & ENDS

UFC
UFC Fight Night Saturday — Las Vegas

FIGHTER	ODDS
Mateusz Gamrot	+120
vs. Quillan Salkilld	-145
Diego Ferreira	-175
vs. Billy Quarantillo	+145
Darren Elkins	+550
vs. Yadier del Valle	-800
Amanda Lemos	+210
vs. Alexia Thainara	-260
Billy Ray Goff	+310
vs. Ty Miller	-400
Steven Asplund	-300
vs. Guilherme Pat	+240
Diyar Nurgozhay	-145
vs. Bruno Lopes	+120
Louie Sutherland	-185
vs. Jose Montanha da Silva	+155
Manoel Sousa	-290
vs. Richie Miranda	+230
Miles Johns	-160
vs. Jessie Rosas	+135
Juliana Miller	-340
vs. Ravena Oliveira	+265
Gigi Canuto	+220
vs. Carol Foro	-270

WNBA
Odds to win 2026 WNBA championship

TEAM	ODDS
Minnesota Lynx	+100
Las Vegas Aces	+400
Atlanta Dream	+900
Liberty	+950
Indiana Fever	10/1
Golden State Valkyries	11/1
Dallas Wings	25/1
Washington Mystics	100/1
Phoenix Mercury	350/1
Los Angeles Sparks	750/1
Chicago Sky	1,000/1
Portland Fire	1,000/1
Toronto Tempo	1,000/1
Seattle Storm	2,000/1
Connecticut Sun	2,000/1

Odds to reach finals

TEAM	ODDS
Minnesota Lynx	-250
Las Vegas Aces	+150
Atlanta Dream	+300
Golden State Valkyries	+300
Indiana Fever	+350
Liberty	+375
Dallas Wings	+800
Washington Mystics	30/1
Phoenix Mercury	100/1
Chicago Sky	500/1
Los Angeles Sparks	500/1
Portland Fire	500/1
Toronto Tempo	500/1

BET SMART

Salkilld provides UFC value in Vegas

By ERICH RICHTER

Last week was one of the wildest cards we've ever seen with an obscene 12 finishes on the card in Serbia.

The promotion returns to Las Vegas this weekend with 12 more fights, and nine of them are projected to end inside the distance once again.

Decisions are becoming more and more a rarity in the UFC with this weekend's card looking interesting to target.

The promotion returns to it's regular start time at 5 p.m. ET, with the prelims before the main card begins at 8 p.m.

UFC Fight Night predictions Mateusz Gamrot vs. Quillan Salkilld

This is a very good main event this weekend as one of these two fighters will jump into title competition with a win on Saturday.

Mateusz Gamrot impressively won by submission last time out against a dangerous Esteban Ribovics, while Quillan Salkilld has three straight finishes in the first round against solid competition.

Salkilld is a short favorite here and I think that's a fair line even with Gamrot has a grappling advantage in theory.

Salkilld is going to look much bigger in the octagon at six feet tall compared to Gamrot's 5-foot-11-inches.

The Australian Salkilld also has an advantage with a 70.5" reach and has phenomenal striking and power to go along with it.

We've seen Gamrot beat some of the best fighters in the world, including Arman Tsarukyan, but his loss to Dan Hooker shows that while he has a high ceiling, his floor is just as low.

I think Salkilld's moneyline is plenty enough value to target on Saturday as I firmly believe he could be a title contender.

Recommendation: Salkilld moneyline (-142, DraftKings)

Diego Ferreira vs. Billy Quarantillo

Two of the older guard fighters face off at lightweight as Diego Ferreira (41) faces off against Billy Quarantillo (37).

It's a fight to look at with skeptical eyes, as we haven't seen Quarantillo in the octagon since 2024 and when we were seeing him he was really struggling, having lost three of his past four fights.

Ferreira hasn't exactly done much better, losing two straight in 2025 and doesn't have a win since May 2024.

It's a weird co-main event and kind of random with no real stakes to speak of in terms of the future of these two fighters in the division.

You should be leary betting on Quarantillo to turn back the clock and look like his old self after a long layoff, as we've seen too many fighters come back and look like a shell of themselves just to get one last payday while in the promotion.

No bet on the moneyline in this fight, instead expecting some length and targeting over 1.5 rounds, as only one Ferreira fight since 2020 has ended that quickly and just two of Quarantillo's last 11.

Recommendation: Over 1.5 rounds (-135, theScore Bet)

UFC Fight Night full card picks

Darren Elkins vs. Yadier del Valle: del Valle by submission (+320, BetRivers)

Amanda Lemos vs. Alexia Thainara: Thainara by submission (+430, FanDuel)

Billy Ray Goff vs. Ty Miller: Miller by decision (+185, BetRivers)

Steven Asplund vs. Guilherme Pat: Asplund by decision (+175, FanDuel)

Diyar Nurgozhay vs. Bruno Lopes: Nurgozhay by decision (+500, Prophet X)

Louie Sutherland vs. Jose Montanha da Silva: Under 1.5 rounds (+120, FanDuel)

Manoel Sousa vs. Richie Miranda: Miranda by submission (16/1, DraftKings)

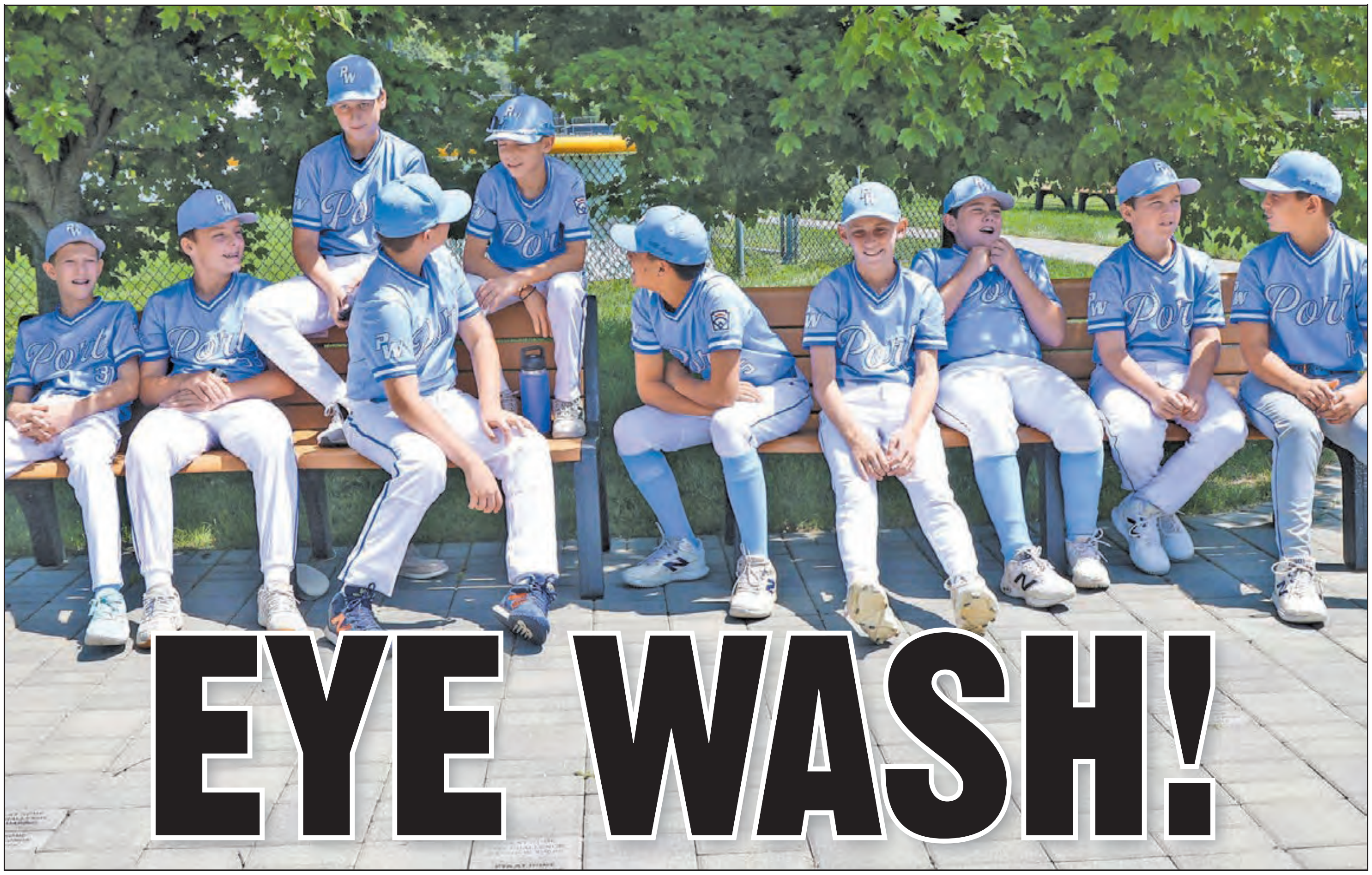
Miles Johns vs. Jessie Rosas: Fight does not go the distance (+108, BetRivers)

Juliana Miller vs. Ravena Oliveira: Fight goes the distance (+142, FanDuel)

Gigi Canuto vs. Carol Foro: Over 2.5 rounds (+146, DraftKings)

Quillan Salkilld
Getty Images

EYE WASH!


Dennis A. Clark

BIG-TIME LITTLE LEAGUE: The Port Washington Little League team won the New York state title and now is on its way to try to qualify for the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

Look out LLWS, L.I. squad making charge

By ALEX MITCHELL

Never in its 63-year history has the Port Washington Little League been crowned New York State champs — until this once-in-a-generation group of boys came around.

"We've been playing great baseball," third baseman Jack Gomez told The Post before heading to the regional round of the Little League World Series in Bristol, Conn.

"We've been practicing for a while, and I think we're ready."

Now the six-decade-long underdogs are three wins away from the ultimate prize — their first-ever trip to Williamsport, Pa., later in August.

Standing in their way are the best tristate Little Leagues — Bayonne Central, N.J.; Darien, Conn.; and Lincoln, R.I. — for the sole spot to represent the Metro Region in the LLWS.

"Sometimes we mess up, but that's OK," center fielder Walter Cassens said. "If we play our game good, then we could definitely win."

Port Washington's first epic step in the double-elimination tournament begins against Lincoln at 4 p.m. Saturday on ESPN+.

Few are more thrilled than shortstop Brandon Kien, who on more than one occasion traveled to Bristol to root on New York's team in the regional round as a fan who loves the game.

Taking the field himself this weekend will be a surreal experience, he said.

"It's kind of like a dream come true," Kien said. "And the dorms we're going to be staying in are sick."

Boys will be boys

Team camaraderie and bunking together at a hotel for the New York State title tourney in West Nyack have been a huge part of the journey, bringing the boys together.

That and left fielder Carlo Cafferata bringing up his PlayStation 5 for the boys.

"We played it a lot in the hotel," he said, adding that taking time for basketball and soccer video games became a good luck charm to beat some of the Empire State's very best.

"We had a lot of fun."

They plan on keeping the momentum going at the team dorms at the A. Bartlett Giamatti Center in Bristol, this time adding in Wiffle ball and plenty of time for the campus pool on off days.

Smiling and goofing around — when appropriate — is a secret to their success, catcher Michael Gabriel said.

"We're probably laughing at least half of the time," he said. "I'm excited to face new teams that we've never played and just have fun while not knowing what's going to happen."

Long Island's finest

It's not just fun and games, though, as the pals from Port Wash know when it's time to lock in and be laser-focused for the task at hand.

"They're persistent. They work hard in big spots. They come up big for each other," assistant coach Anthony Theoharis said. "I think that's a testament to all the hard work and practice that they've put in. We've been hitting and fielding for months, and it's paid off."

Theoharis added that the team is an even mix of 11- and 12-year-olds, but not having the extra year means very little to the talent and work ethic of the younger guys.

"They're studs, and the way they all play together as a team is just a lot of fun to coach and watch."

The coaching staff also wants the group to attack the moment and leave it all out on the field.

"Playing not scared to fail, I think, is something we try to impose on them," said Theoharis, who added that the parents are even more stoked than the kids to see the games televised.

The moment is doubly exciting for the assistant coach, as he has two boys, third baseman Drew and left fielder Luca, on the dream team.

"It just feels good. It's once in a lifetime," Luca said.

Drew, first baseman Max Dempsey and right fielder Ethan Spitalnik all agree.

"Probably just getting to spend time with the team and playing on the big stage is what I'm most looking forward to," second baseman Jackson Gorynski said.

"I think we're very confident," added right fielder Mikey Catuogno. "I think we can make it to Williamsport."

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Rising QB in Suffolk

Quarterback **Anthony Diieso** (below) is cooking up something special for the St. Anthony's Friars.

After starting as a sophomore, Diieso is locked and loaded for his second year on varsity and put in the work this summer to prove it.

"Last year was definitely a little nerve-wracking, but now I'm all settled in — been putting in all the hard work," the soon-to-be 11th grader told The Post.

"I think it's going to be a fun one this year."

Diieso won a quarterback challenge held by the Suffolk County chapter of the National Football Foundation in July, which he said got the good juices flowing ahead of August training camp.

"It was a lot of the top kids on Long Island," Diieso said. "You see new faces, you see new play styles, and you have to compete."

Now he wants to further a leadership role and rewrite the script after a semifinal playoff exit against Westchester's Iona Prep last season in the Catholic League playoffs.

"My receivers and I, we're all getting extra work in, making sure we're prepared for this upcoming season," Diieso said.

The redemption arc starts with challenging out-of-league games against New Jersey's Red Bank Catholic and St. Peter's Prep, also of the Garden State.

"I always love testing myself. Those games, they will really see what we're made of. It's a high-level competition, and I think it will be fun games.

"This season is everything. I want to win a state championship with my team, celebrating on the field."

— Alex Mitchell

Stephen Yang

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ROUGHING ROMO

If Tony loses job, he'll be victim of his own celebrity

Tony Romo

Getty Images

ROUGH stretch for Tony Romo. And the feeling is pari-mutuel. Over the weekend at Los Alamitos a horse named RomoLand, the heavy favorite at 4-5, neared the starting gate when it became uncooperative and was scratched.

I don't know how or when CBS plans to punish Romo for his alleged OWI in Wisconsin, but I'd suggest that the nitwits who approved his $180 million salary for calling five months of Sunday NFL games — one per weekend at $18 million per season — should be those left quaking in their wing tips.

Not that it holds any relevance to irresponsible and too often deadly drunken driving, but I'm among the perceived few who enjoyed Romo's hoarse-throated analysis on CBS's telecasts.

And even at a sensible salary, say a paltry 15 grand per game — good work if you can get it! — I don't think he'd have provided better or worse.

Romo, if guilty, did not commit a crime that inspires a life sentence. He's lucky he didn't kill someone or himself, and I suggest he has learned that the second-hardest way.

On the air, Romo didn't hit us with genuine pigskin gibberish — "the ol' Tampa 2" — misapplied red-zone percentages and blind-to-reality QB passing ratings.

He could be funny, no forced laughter needed, wickedly sarcastic and, in a land of know-it-all bad-guess artists, provided spoken foresight, often correct, about what was coming and why, as opposed to Cris Collinsworth's indisputable hindsight as in, "I could see that coming!"

That written, what's CBS's intention now? Already it has inserted J.J. Watt, at least for the start of this exhibition season, to replace Romo. Does Romo's deal include a morals clause to invoke — to fire him "for cause" and, more importantly, to rescue CBS from the balance of Romo's insane salary?

I consider myself to be a rational person, thus allow me to rationalize: How many of us have friends and/or family, with no prior arrests, who were busted for DWI then lost their careers?

Me? Never had a DWI, but there was one time ...

Shoot, Jim Boeheim's inattentive driving on a wet highway left an innocent man dead, yet ESPN was eager to hire him when he was done bullying media and being sanctioned for cheating while coaching Syracuse. And he's one of many college coaches who broke the rules to attain the fame and fortune that led to Basketball Hall of Fame induction.

Bob Huggins, infamous for recruiting young men with no academic ability and zero graduation rates to prove it while coaching Cincinnati then West Virginia, was twice busted for drunken driving — once blowing nearly three times over the limit — yet he's a Hall of Famer.

But enough rationalizations.

Romo, despite the scratch to call for a ride in a bridal party limo, apparently fell victim to his and our human condition, the one that tells us, "You can handle it. You're not a sissy!" And so, bravely contemptuous of the risk, we risk it.

Fire Romo? Or: Fire Romo!

Had Romo been a sweat-rent fellow making 75 grand a year for punching numbers into a computer for an insurance company, he'd have been back at his desk the same day he appeared in court.

And this often-correct notion that justice favors the wealthy is not always correct. Sometimes it works both ways.

Hey L.A.: Careful what you wish for

THOSE who have rushed to the rich-get-richer conclusion following the Dodgers trade for **Tarik Skubal** would have been better to allow unnatural nature to take its course.

Skubal has already had three surgeries on his left arm — the one with which he throws, when not disabled, 100 mph. And he continues to throw as if he had no surgeries — sling-shotting his pitches from an elbow that first travels then unravels from behind his right ear.

It's the Tommy John surgery delivery, the one that causes an epidemic in lost-for-the-season pitchers, ages 15 through 40.

➤ Though the Yankees don't need a first baseman, their trade for first baseman **Luis García Jr.** seems predicated on one thing: hitting home runs over Yankee Stadium's inviting right field wall.

In other words, García will become another homer-or-whiff 21st century big leaguer.

And I remain convinced that right field wall is too much in lefty-batting **Spencer Jones**' head for him to succeed in Yankee Stadium.

It's the same reason **Jazz Chisholm Jr.** is batting .218 with 17 HRs, and already has 130 strikeouts.

➤ The tale of Hansel and Feetsel: While the leadoff triple last week by **Jasson Domínguez**, which he turned into an out by sliding past third, led to interminable inspection and next-game laments by **Michael Kay** and **Joe Girardi**, neither saying what viewers couldn't miss.

From reader **Christian Siragusa**, who noted that Domínguez, in a 2-1 loss, was unable to stop himself due to a foolish, new-age fundamentally bereft headfirst slide: "A simple feetfirst pop-up slide right into the bag" would have prevented the calamity. Instead, "Look Ma, no brakes!"

But only if you say so, Gary

GARY COHEN, who never identified a sweeper until last season, insists on insisting that we believe what he says in defiance of what we can so clearly see.

Saturday, after Marlins utilityman **Javier Sanoja** fouled off a pitch thrown down the middle but well above the strike zone, Cohen: "He fouls back the sinker, away."

Tuesday, after **Sean Manaea** nearly hit a Cleveland batter with a pitch high and in, Cohen resolutely called the pitch "a sweeper."

Why he has chosen to do this to us and himself remains a dark mystery.

➤ A near-fatal car crash that left 49ers head coach **Kyle Shanahan** seriously injured left me a Kyle Shanahan fan.

While dolts were quick to blame the other driver, a woman, Shanahan ended that when he said it was *all* his fault, as he lost concentration fumbling for his dropped cellphone.

➤ Another week of baseball lost to mindless excess.

Fox's Yankees-Cubs on Saturday was drowned in talk and forced guffaws from **Adam Amin**, **Adam Wainwright** and **A.J. Pierzynski**. More burden than pleasure.

SNY's addition of much-too-eager-to-please, show-and-teller, live camera-on-the-booth **Daniel Murphy** left reader **Ron Berthel**, for one, asking if Murphy thought he'd been assigned to host a talk show.

➤ No matter how many times we're told of the indispensable, near-lifetime work **Jay Horwitz** has done for the Mets, leave it to SNY, the Mets network, to misspell his name in a large, stand-alone graphic.

Karl Ravech, despite his dismissal from ESPN, is still calling select MLB games for ESPN. Gives him a chance to be candid without fear of firing.

We can be told how new Giants head coach **John Harbaugh** runs a tight tugboat, but I'll give all-about-me WR **Malik Nabers** two games before he costs the Giants 15 yards, or worse, with his self-smitten antics.

Seems **Donald Trump** wants to do for FIFA what he did for the USFL.

Went to a restaurant last night that was so expensive only the roof was on the house!

Phil Mushnick's column returns Aug. 21.

MushnickPhilip@gmail.com

Liberty release team mainstay Laney-Hamilton

By MADELINE KENNEY

Liberty fan favorite Betnijah Laney-Hamilton's time in Brooklyn has come to an unceremonious end.

The Liberty released Laney-Hamilton, the team announced Thursday.

The writing had been on the wall for weeks.

Laney-Hamilton hadn't set foot on the court since she was ejected after throwing a shoe in the Liberty's July 12 loss to the Toronto Tempo, racking up eight consecutive healthy scratches since.

The Liberty explored moving her before Sunday's trade deadline but were unable to find a deal that made sense for all involved.

BETNIJAH LANEY-HAMILTON

Laney-Hamilton's recent benching coincided with French guard Marine Fauthoux's injection into the rotation. Fauthoux, the Liberty's third-round pick in 2021, has played in 11 of the maximum 12 games allowed as a developmental player.

With Laney-Hamilton gone, the Liberty intend to sign Fauthoux to a multiyear contract, a source told The Post.

In a statement, Liberty general manager Jonathan Kolb said the decision to cut Laney-Hamilton was "incredibly difficult."

"We believe this will give Betnijah the best opportunity to pursue a larger basketball role," he said. "We wish her nothing but success moving forward, and she'll always be a member of the Liberty family. As a key contributor to the first championship in franchise history, Betnijah's legacy with the Liberty is forever cemented."

Laney-Hamilton, a former All-Star and starter on New York's 2024 championship team, signed a one-year, $400,000 contract in April. It was essentially a prove-it deal, with Laney-Hamilton hoping to earn a major pay raise next offseason.

But the season turned into one of the biggest challenges of her career.

Despite entering this campaign the healthiest she had been for quite some time, Laney-Hamilton never fully established herself. Her role fluctuated. She went from starter to coming off the bench to not playing at all.

She missed time for personal reasons early on and then again after having an injection in her surgically repaired knee.

Laney-Hamilton appeared in 17 of the Liberty's 32 games, averaging 4.7 points, 1.9 rebounds and 1.5 assists. She averaged her fewest minutes and lowest scoring output since 2018.

Laney-Hamilton was the second-longest-tenured player on the Liberty, having signed with the team ahead of the 2021 season.

She came to Brooklyn before the Liberty became the WNBA's standard-bearer and before championship expectations replaced hopeful optimism.

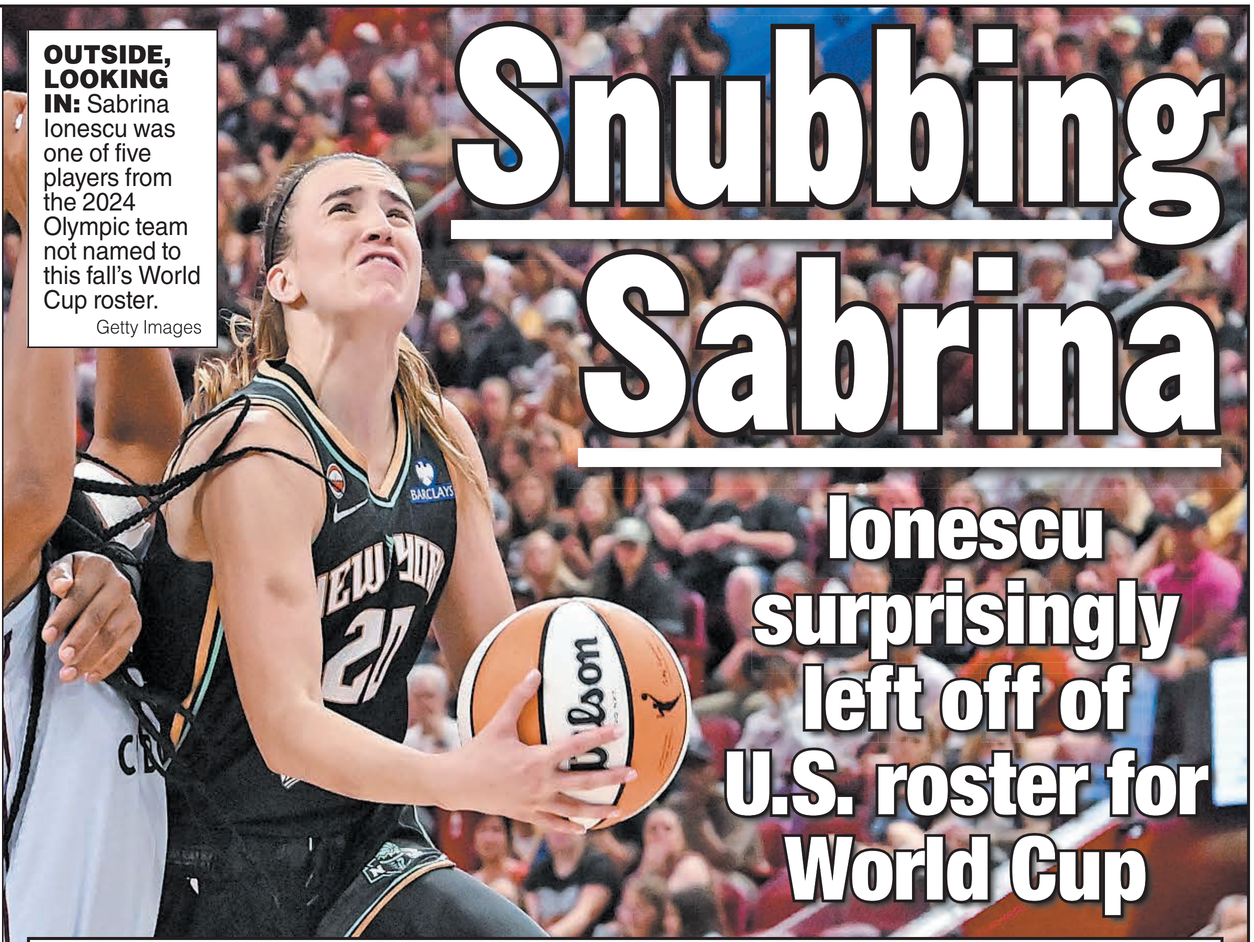
The 32-year-old established herself as the team's two-way heartbeat when the franchise was trying to rediscover relevance. She served as the team's glue during the championship run, committing to the dirty work that rarely receives headline attention.

Laney-Hamilton gave her all to the organization. During the 2024 WNBA Finals, she told Ros Gold-Onwude that she was playing "till the wheels fall off."

She helped end New York's 51-year professional basketball title drought.

But championship windows have little room for sentimentality.

"We want to thank Betnijah for everything she has given to this organization," Kolb said. "She has been an instrumental part of our success since 2021 and has made a lasting impact on our team, both on and off the court. We're incredibly grateful for her professionalism, leadership and the commitment she brought to the New York Liberty every day."



OUTSIDE, LOOKING IN: Sabrina Ionescu was one of five players from the 2024 Olympic team not named to this fall's World Cup roster.
Getty Images

Snubbing Sabrina

Ionescu surprisingly left off of U.S. roster for World Cup

By MADELINE KENNEY

Liberty star guard Sabrina Ionescu was a surprising omission from the U.S. women's national team roster for the upcoming FIBA World Cup in Berlin.

The 12-player roster — headlined by Breanna Stewart, A'ja Wilson, Caitlin Clark and Paige Bueckers — was unveiled Thursday morning.

It's the second roster determined by Sue Bird, USA Basketball's senior women's national team managing director, and the first for a major international competition under her tenure.

Bird also determined the roster for the World Cup qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico this spring.

Unsurprisingly, Stewart was named to her fourth World Cup roster. The selection makes Stewart one of only three players to appear in at least four World Cups. Bird appeared in five and Diana Taurasi appeared in four.

"Anytime I do get the call, it is an honor," Stewart said on the eve of the roster reveal. "I always want to do it. I always want to make myself available and it'll be really exciting to go to Berlin."

The roster included seven players who will be making their World Cup debuts: Clark, Bueckers, Angel Reese, Aliyah Boston, Rhyne Howard, Jackie Young and Napheesa Collier.

The roster is shored up by seasoned veterans: Stewart, Chelsea Gray, Kahleah Copper, Kelsey Plum and Wilson.

The tournament runs from Sept. 4-13 in Berlin.

Sunday
ACES AT LIBERTY
LAS VEGAS ACES 12:30 p.m. ABC NY

Ionescu is one of five players from the country's 2024 Olympic roster who won't be playing in this year's World Cup. Taurasi, Jewell Loyd, Brittney Griner and Alyssa Thomas are the others.

Ionescu helped the U.S. capture gold at the 2022 World Cup in Australia and the 2024 Paris Games.

She participated in the U.S. women's national team training camp in April in Phoenix. But she was injured for most of the first five weeks of the WNBA season.

It's not immediately clear whether her injury status played a role in her absence, and Bird didn't offer much clarity on her decision during her 15-minute media availability.

"The way I approach it, it's not about leaving people off the roster," Bird said when asked specifically about Ionescu's omission. "I don't view it as who's getting left off and why. It's about having to make choices between people who have all earned the right to be on this team and so I look at it more from that standpoint of like who's going to be part of that 12."

Bird said she personally called Ionescu to share the news.

"It's not a reflection of who they are as players — it's just not," Bird said. "There's so many players that have earned the right to be on this team. For Sabrina, a player that has already been on this team, she understands what it is to wear the jersey. It was just about making choices for those that ... I think are going to be part of the 12 to win a gold medal and complement each other ... playing under Kara [Lawson], having a cohesiveness and this is where I landed."

Ionescu is far from the only player who has missed time this summer because of injuries.

Plum, who has been limited to just 14 WNBA games this season because of a leg injury, made the cut. Collier, who was sidelined until late July following ankle surgeries, did as well.

Asked a follow-up question regarding Ionescu's absence from the roster, Bird said she didn't have much to add.

"I pretty much said what it was," Bird said. "... It's obviously a private conversation at the same time. But for Sabrina, for really the majority of the players — all the players who received calls — I just wanted to reiterate that this is a very tough roster to make, and I don't view it as a reflection of their play."

The Liberty should be well represented at the World Cup.

Leonie Fiebich (if healthy) is expected to suit up for host Germany. Satou Sabally's status with Germany is less certain as she remains in concussion protocol.

Marine Johannès, Pauline Astier and Marine Fauthoux are candidates for the French national team, Raquel Carrera could play for Spain and Han Xu for China.

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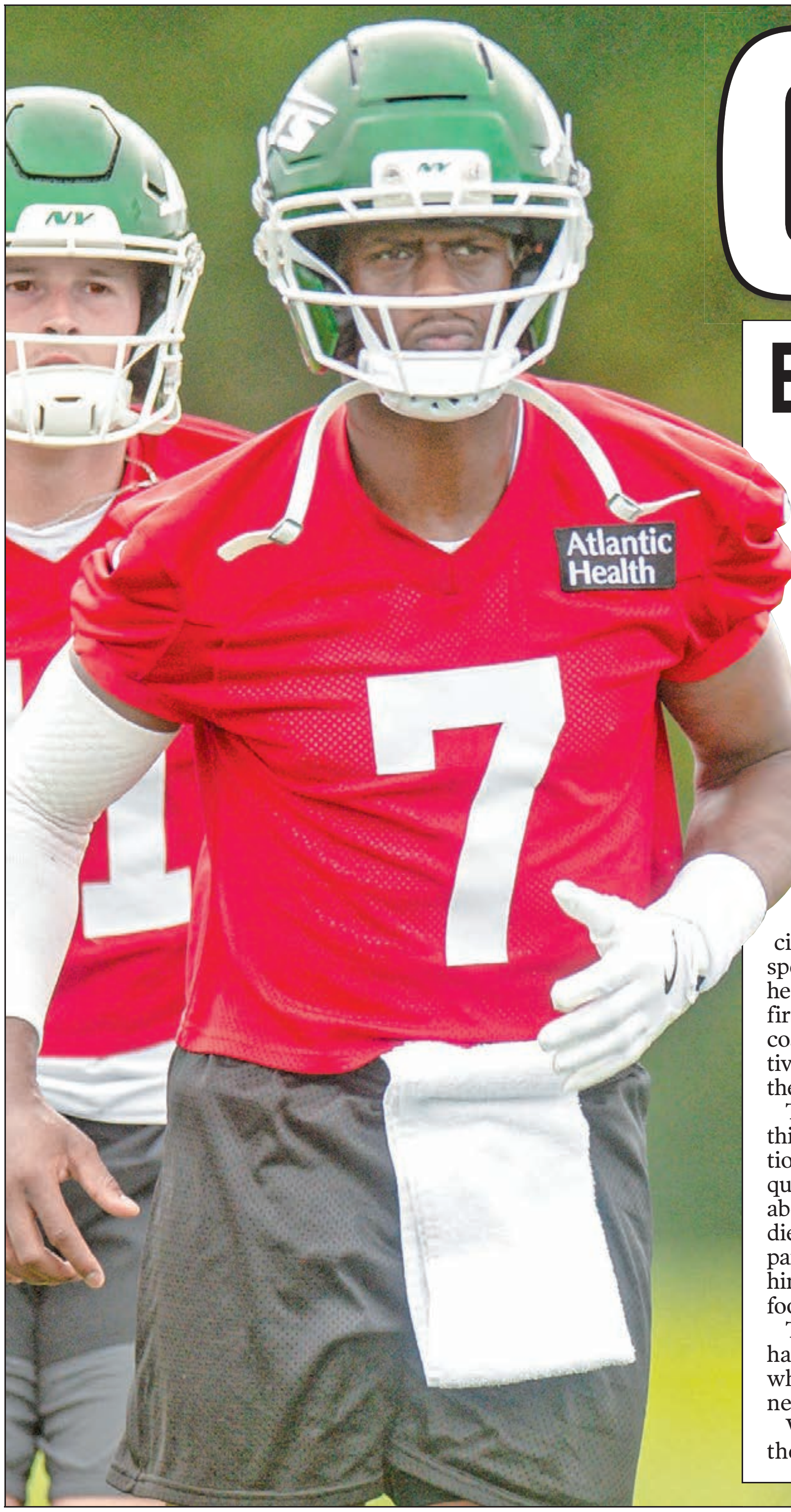
GO BIG &



Big-play potential tantalizing entering Geno's second act

Mark Cannizzaro

FULL disclosure: As the Jets floundered during the offseason in search of a viable starting quarterback for 2026, the thought of Geno Smith 2.0 in Florham Park never felt ideal.

Memories of Smith's calamitous and controversial first run with the Jets, his sulking nature and immaturity that led to that ill-fated locker room TKO were too prominent.

With time, along with watching him operate proficiently in training camp, looking, speaking and acting like the leader he never was when he was here the first time and listening to his head coach and teammates speak positively about him, Smith deserves the benefit of the doubt here.

The Jets reality at quarterback is this: They didn't have a lot of options in the offseason with the quarterback position in the NFL about as deep as one of those kiddie pools in the neighborhood park, and at least Smith brings with him the ability to actually pass the football, push it down the field.

That's something the Jets didn't have in 2025 with Justin Fields, who has always been more runner than passer.

When you look at how anemic the Jets passing numbers were last season, it initially reads like a misprint. Fifteen touchdown passes thrown and 2,385 passing yards in 17 games.

Smith, with his left arm tied behind his back, should deliver numbers that will dwarf those.

He, too, is an aggressive passer who looks to make big plays down the field.

A year ago, the Jets ranked 29th in the NFL in explosive plays on offense, according to Sharp Football Analysis metrics.

Asked Thursday about Smith's propensity to be aggressive, Jets head coach Aaron Glenn's eyes lit up.

"Man, that's what we're searching for: explosive plays," Glenn said, sounding like a man in a desert longing for a drink of water. "But we're going to celebrate the intermediate gains, too."

Glenn praised Smith's leadership and said his propensity to push the ball downfield will keep all of his receivers alert and engaged, which is not something they needed to be last year with a quarterback who was unable to throw to them.

"Guys have confidence that, when routes are stretched down the field, he's going to let it rip," Glenn said. "For guys like Garrett [Wilson], AD [Mitchell], [Omar] Cooper [Jr.], Isaiah [Williams], all of them [will] feel like they have a chance the ball's coming to them because he does a good job spreading it around.

"Even our tight ends — you probably saw today — everybody had their hands on the ball, even our backs. When you have a quarterback who's going to distribute the ball that way, everyone stays alert for it, and he does a really good job of that. You always have to be ready because the ball could come to you at any time."

Smith relishes the big play, but also insists, "I feel like I'm pretty sound in my decision-making."

"I've always been aggressive in my approach," he said Thursday. "We want all our eligible receivers to feel like they're part of the offense. We have so many talented guys, and any one of them can touch the ball and make a play. My job is to make the right read, make an accurate throw, put the ball in their hands, and let them do the rest."

To blame Smith for the miserable 2025 season in Las Vegas isn't

Bulked-up McDonald still mystery within this

By BRIAN COSTELLO

The Jets have a lot of new faces at edge rusher this season. But it is one familiar face that feels like a bit of a forgotten man with the 2026 Jets.

Will McDonald IV is still here. The question is what role he will be in for a Jets defense in transition.

"I envision him being a good player for us," Jets coach Aaron Glenn said. "And whatever capacity that we're going to have him in, I feel like he's going to be a good player for us."

Well, that does not clear up much.

McDonald was a first-round pick in 2023 by the old regime of Joe Douglas and Robert Saleh. He's had some good moments as a Jet. He had 10 ½ sacks in 2024. He had a blocked field goal for a touchdown last year against the Buccaneers. McDonald registered four sacks against the Browns last year.

But there also has been some inconsistency. He finished last season with eight sacks total even though he had four in that one game. There have been games in which he has not had much impact. His run defense remains a question.

There is a question of how well he fits Glenn's scheme. The head coach professes to liking big guys up front, and that was evident this offseason with many of the additions the Jets made. McDonald is a smaller edge rusher whose game is based on speed.

McDonald added some weight this offseason. Glenn recently said he is 240 pounds. He looks bigger in his uniform, but the questions remain just how the Jets will use him. They drafted David Bailey at No. 2 overall and signed edge players Joseph Ossai and Kingsley Enagbare. There surely will be a rotation on the edge, but just how big a part of that McDonald will be remains a question.

On Thursday, McDonald said the additions did not make him question how he fits.

"No, not really," McDonald said. "The scheme of the defense is to get like help. Those are really good guys, good run defenders, good pass rushers. There's things that I learn off of them. There's things they learn off of me. I just think having those guys in the room helps me, helps the rookies and helps everybody else around."

The 27-year-old is entering his fourth NFL season. The Jets exercised his fifth-year option for 2027, but it still feels like this could be a short-term relationship. It would not be a shock to see McDonald traded at the midseason deadline this year. Last season, the Jets rejected any trade inquiries on McDonald, but they may listen this year.

GO HOME

GO DEEP: As unlikely as the reunion between the Jets and quarterback Geno Smith is, he's grown up from the immature rookie who took snaps for the franchise well over a decade ago. The present-day team could use some of the aggressive downfield looks he can bring to the table, with his tendencies only making head coach Aaron Glenn's eyes light up. Imagn Images; Bill Kostroun

fair. He played behind possibly the worst offensive line in the league and for an ownership with a mandate that the team tank for the No. 1 overall draft pick.

With the Jets, Smith has a cohesive, young and talented offensive line, some solid skill position players around him and veteran offensive coordinator Frank Reich calling plays.

If Smith is able to deliver numbers to the Jets this season similar to some of his seasons in Seattle — say, 25 TDs, 10 INTs and 3,500 to 4,000 yards — it's difficult to envision the Jets not being much improved from a year ago.

"He's one of those veteran quarterbacks who's super intelligent pre-snap," newcomer Jets safety Dane Belton said Thursday. "I played against him a few times, but really seeing it day in and day out through OTAs and camp, understanding what the defense is giving him, even when you're trying to disguise it, he's very intelligent and can see through that.

"He's able to throw the ball wherever he wants. We've got really talented receivers, backs, tight ends, a great core he can get the ball to, and he's been able to do that."

Smith said, "I love the competitive spirit of this team. I love the progress we've made so far, but we still have a long way to go."

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Gang Green regime

It also would not be a surprise if McDonald is used as a pass rush specialist this year and sits out running downs.

"Pass rushing has always been his wheelhouse," Glenn said. "And I think you guys know, I know, he knows that his improvement has been the run game. Listen, he came in this year, he's 240 pounds, he looks really good, I know you guys see that. He took it upon himself to understand, have awareness of where [he would] have to improve at, and I have no doubt in my mind he's going to get better in that aspect."

McDonald said he focused this offseason on nutrition and adding weight.

"I bulked up a little bit," McDonald said. "Obviously, I'm going to use that in the run game. Obviously, there's room for improvement in my run game, so that's another thing I'm really big on."

McDonald said he enjoys playing with Bailey and the two are helping each other. The Jets traded Jermaine Johnson to the Titans during the offseason, so McDonald has seen how the business of the NFL works.

Ossai and Enagbare currently are dealing with injuries, leaving a lot of reps for McDonald. He now needs to make the most of them to prove to Glenn and the Jets that he should have a big role on this defense and not be a forgotten man.

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QB seeing field through rose-tinted ... contacts?

By BRIAN COSTELLO

It only looks like Geno Smith is seeing red.

The Jets quarterback is sporting red contact lenses during training camp practice to help cut down on glare on the practice field.

"It's something that we've been doing," Smith said Thursday. "It's actually pretty cool. it blocks out the sunlight and all that, so it's actually pretty cool. It keeps the glare from the sun out of your eyes."

JETS NOTES

Former Jets wide receiver Santonio Holmes used to wear red contacts during games when he played for the team. Smith and Holmes actually spent one season together in 2013, Smith's first as a pro.

He remembers that Holmes wore them, but he said the idea to start wearing them now came from some eye specialists.

"The entire room is yellow, so it's a yellow tint to everything," Smith said. "It's pretty cool. You guys should try it."

➤ Jets coach **Aaron Glenn** was asked about the offense and defense battling in practice and which unit is getting the better of the other.

"I said this to the players the other day: For a head coach, you usually leave practice pissed off because if the offense has a great day then, obviously, the defense didn't," Glenn said. "But then if the defense had a great day, obviously the offense didn't. And that's not a bad thing, you know, but it's just a competition, and these guys are giving it all. They're giving me everything that I'm asking to give. And again, game-like intensity, and we have to continue to really focus in on that every rep. Every rep is important to us."

➤ Rookie CB **D'Angelo Ponds** has yet to practice in training camp as he deals with a calf injury. Ponds was on a side field working with trainers on Thursday, which is a positive sign.

"Ponds is getting close, he's moving around," Glenn said. "The thing is: I don't want to put a date on it just yet, but he's another guy that I know he'll be ready; he'll be ready in the next couple of weeks, I'll say that. But he's moving around."

Glenn said he is not worried about Ponds falling behind because he is still getting work in the classroom.

"Now, it's nothing like doing it on the field, which we've got to see, but I'm not concerned with that player at all," Glenn said. "Again, he's a smart player. He knows exactly what he's doing. The thing is: He's playing inside and outside, but he'll be just fine."

➤ Glenn said rookie TE **Kenyon Sadiq** is going to miss a "couple of weeks" after suffering a setback in his recovery from hernia surgery. Glenn said he is confident Sadiq will return in time for the regular season. ... DE **Kingsley Enagbare** (ankle), RB **Isaiah Davis** (knee) and CB **Nahshon Wright** (hip) did not practice Thursday. Glenn said Davis may miss a few weeks.

➤ The Jets claimed DT **Junior Tafuna** off waivers from the Texans on Thursday. They waived DL **Patrick Jenkins** in the corresponding move.

JETS TRAINING DAY

BURN NOTICE

It is easy to overlook **Garrett Wilson** at times because we expect him to play well; when he does, it is ho-hum. On Thursday, he showed his skill when he beat cornerback **Brandon Stephens** in a red zone period to get wide open. **Geno Smith** hit him with a pretty 25-yard touchdown pass. These two are developing chemistry.

COOP'S OOPS

Rookie WR **Omar Cooper Jr.** had a bad drop during a 7-on-7 period. Cooper has had an up-and-down training camp so far. The joint practices and preseason games will be huge for him.

CAUGHT MY EYE

The kicking competition is a good one. **Jason Sanders** went 5-for-8 on Thursday, missing from 47, 51 and 53 yards. **Cade York** went 5-for-7 with misses from 52 and 53.

INJURY REPORT

RB **Isaiah Davis** (knee) is out for a few weeks. Aaron Glenn said the Jets got good news on rookie TE **Kenyon Sadiq** (hernia), but he will still miss several weeks. Glenn expects him back for Week 1. CB **Nahshon Wright** (hip) did not practice Thursday. Rookie CB **D'Angelo Ponds** (calf) is getting close to returning. DE **Kingsley Enagbare** (ankle) is day to day.

— Brian Costello

FOOTWORK IN PROGRESS

Dart feeling good with 'different' mechanics, eyes Giant leap in 2nd season

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — Jaxson Dart's feet aren't just used for scrambling.

The tiresome debate over whether the Giants quarterback has learned when to run (and avoid big hits) and when to kill a bad play with a throwaway has overshadowed the idea that Dart needs to improve his footwork as a dropback pocket passer to take a leap forward in Year 2.

"It's a mandate," ESPN NFL analyst and former quarterback Dan Orlovsky told The Post.

The Giants incorporated many Ole Miss elements into their offense last year to ease Dart's rookie transition. New offensive coordinator Matt Nagy is running more of a traditional NFL offense that requires Dart to be more frequently under center (79.9 percent of snaps in the shotgun last season) and use more play-action fakes (26.9 percent) to balance out RPO (run-pass option) concepts.

Orlovsky counts three ways quarterbacks generally evolve "from their young time when they have moments of success to taking the next step." While tweaking the throwing motion does not apply to Dart, the other two — reading defenses more efficiently and progressing footwork — do.

"They master the understanding of the importance of their three-step drop and what kind of three-step drop, the five-step drop and what kind of five-step drop, the seven- or eight-step drop and what kind," Orlovsky said. "And how that ties into not only the route but the concept and the protection. That is where he has to take an astronomical step."

Pocket footwork clicked for MVPs Josh Allen (Bills) and Lamar Jackson (Ravens) late in their second seasons and eventually elevated former bust Sam Darnold (Seahawks) to meet expectations.

"There are a few things mechanically that are different," Dart said early in camp. "Probably just the biggest thing is a little bit of footwork landmarks in the pocket. But we've repped the hell out of it. I'm feeling really good with the track that we're on. It's not something out there when I'm on the field that I have to think extra about when I'm having a rep at a certain play."

No one is trying to strip away the off-script playmaking that makes Dart special. But it's more complex than checking a box and making the right decision.

"Did you do the five-step drop that got the ball out at the right time in regards to the protection that was assigned to the play and also the right time in how it timed up with the route that allowed the ball to be placed at the right place at the right time to allow the receiver to do extra?" Orlovsky explained. "Jaxson is going to have to learn to have control over that element of the game and really start to understand how his feet impact the potential success of the play."

Giants head coach John Harbaugh is willing to be patient with Dart. But that doesn't mean he won't give Dart an earful, as he did after a practice-ending interception Day 3 of camp.

"You can't even imagine how much there is for a quarterback to operate with, especially in a new offense," Harbaugh said. "There's so much on his plate. He's pushing the envelope. He's also competing at the same time."

Dart ranked No. 19 among NFL quarterbacks in estimated points added on pass plays last season. With time and a directive to go through reads from the pocket this season, Dart is expected to become more efficient at reading disguised coverages rather than just taking off if the first or second read isn't open.

"A [second-year] quarterback just sees defenses more," Orlovsky said. "He knows that out of certain structures, he's only going to get a couple different pressures. He's seeing them more. He understands them more. He can get ahead of them quicker. That's a mandate for anybody taking the next step."

The Giants are treating every passing snap like a Buy One Get One Free in training camp. After his drop, if nothing is open, the scramble happens, the whistle isn't blown and the defense still has to cover, rally to the ball and force a stoppage.

Harbaugh said Dart "is going through his progressions really well."

The aspects Dart struggles with might be removed from the playbook entirely as the trial-and-error focus narrows closer to Week 1.

"While we're installing plays, a lot of times it's to exotic [defensive] looks," Dart said. "And so, it's good for us to have that communication and it's good for us to make those adjustments so by the time we get into the season, we feel like we've seen a lot already."

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FIGURING IT OUT: Jaxson Dart (left, handing the ball to Cam Skattebo) says he has "repped the hell" out of his footwork in the pocket, to the point where he's "feeling really good with the track we're on."

Getty Images; Corey Sipkin

Rook Mauigoa already making ‘presence’ felt

Paul Schwartz

WHAT DO the Giants need out of Sisi Mauigoa?

Step into a time machine and move ahead two years. Mauigoa is engaged in his third training camp with the Giants and the talk swirling around him focuses on one detail about his encouraging NFL career: When is he getting a contract extension?

If the answer to that is more “as soon as possible” as opposed to “when he proves he deserves it” the Giants will be in business with a player they envision being a full-decade starter. If this proceeds as planned, there will be no concern about the position of right guard for as long as the 63-year-old John Harbaugh presides as the head coach.

With Mauigoa, the vibe is one of belonging. He looks the part, acts the part and, thus far, nearing the end of his first professional summer camp, Mauigoa fits snugly with what the Giants want as they near an end to their 12 days at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

“When you’re on the field, man, you can definitely feel his presence,” running back Tyrone Tracy said. “He’s going to move people.”

Moving people is, essentially, what Mauigoa needs to do to stay around for a long, long while. He needs to protect Jaxson Dart by moving pass rushers away from the intended quarterback target, and he needs to move would-be blockers so that Tracy and Cam Skattebo can get to the second level of the defense to do their thing in the open field.

At 6-foot-4 and 335 pounds, it appears that this 21-year-old will have few issues when it comes to the physical demands required of him. The trade of nose tackle Dexter Lawrence to the Bengals brought back the No. 10 overall pick in the 2026 NFL Draft and the Giants used it to get Mauigoa, their top-rated offensive lineman. He played offensive tackle at Miami, but the thought all along was to move him inside to guard, a spot most talent evaluators believed would better suit his body type, natural power and aggressive mindset.

It is a fit. Mauigoa slides in between right tackle Jermaine Eluemunor (going into his 10th NFL season) and center John Michael Schmitz (going into his third season) and so he has stability around him. An American Samoan, Mauigoa is fun-loving yet serious, respectful yet feisty. He leans on the vets but insists on rising to their level.

“He’s a very energetic kid,” Eluemunor said. “I like playing next to him. I’m excited to just keep growing with him, getting better. And him learning how I play the game, me learning how he plays the game, helping each other so we can be the best this year.”

Greg Van Roten took every snap at right guard the past two seasons, a remarkable display of durability. Once they were able to add Mauigoa, the GVR chapter was closed. The 36-year-old Long Islander on Thursday took a visit to the Patriots, so perhaps his time in the NFL is not yet at an end.

Mauigoa does not have to be great right away. Andrew Thomas as a rookie left tackle in 2021 was not great. Chris Snee as a rookie right guard in 2004 was not great. Both became offensive line stalwarts. Snee won two Super Bowls and is in the Giants Ring of Honor. He is now a senior scout and part of his day is spent working with offensive linemen in camp. Snee on more than one afternoon could be seen intently watching Mauigoa during drills.

For a rookie to make it as an offensive lineman, footwork and fundamentals have to be in sync so that “they just don’t get whipped right away, which can happen because it can ruin the play,” head coach John Harbaugh said.

“So, they’ve got to have that certain level of competence out of the gates. That’s a must. And really, very few guys — there’s very few offensive linemen, really, no matter where they get drafted, that can actually pull that off their rookie year. So, hopefully Sisi’s one of those guys. So far so good, but we’ll see.”

In one-on-one pass blocking challenges, Mauigoa got beat by Kayvon Thibodeaux, held up on a bullrush from Darius Alexander, got the better of Abdul Carter on one snap and got caught by Carter on the next one.

“Early impressions, he’s strong,” inside linebacker Tremaine Edmunds said Thursday after practice.

“He’s very heavy-handed and he can move,” said D.J. Reader, the 330-pound nose tackle signed in free agency. “It’s good to be around some young, joyful energy.”

One day, Thomas instructed Mauigoa to circle the field to hype up the fans before practice. Thomas called it “rookie duties” and Mauigoa did not balk at the assignment.

“He did a good job,” Thomas said.

Consider it something checked off the extensive first-year to-do list. For now, a good job is good enough.

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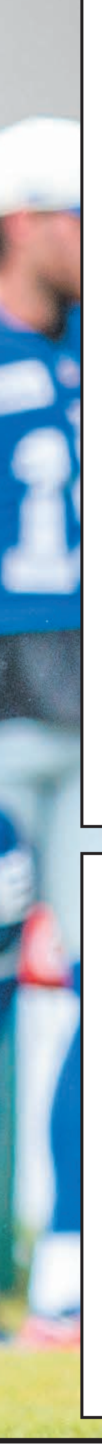

Francis Mauigoa

TRAINING DAY

BANKS ON IT!

Even in a 140-minute walkthrough with no full-speed periods, **Deonte Banks**, **Greg Newsome II**, **Paulson Adebo** and **Colton Hood** continued to rotate through the first-team defense. Banks getting a look as a possible starting cornerback is a merit-based surprise after his two bust-worthy seasons.

FIGHTING SPIRIT

WR **Xavier Gipson** and CB **Nic Jones** exchanged punches at the end of the final play of practice. Both players were still wearing their helmets, risking a hand injury. Teammates jumped in to separate them. Head coach **John Harbaugh** said it “seemed like much ado about nothing” and joked that players were eager to end practice, so they picked up Gipson and Jones and carried them to the circle.

CAUGHT MY EYE

WR **Malik Nabers** and S **Tyler Nubin** bumped into each other during a hold-your-breath moment that both survived unscathed. Nabers clocked his most time on the field in camp because of the length of the installation periods and jogging speed of the walk-through. It highlighted that Nabers hasn’t been wearing the do-not-touch red jersey.

INJURY REPORT

CB **Dru Phillips** suffered a mild knee sprain and will be sidelined for “a little bit,” per Harbaugh. Jones and **Ar’Darius Washington** will fill in the slot. CB **Jarrick Bernard-Converse** has a more lingering knee injury, Harbaugh said. OLB **Brian Burns** and WR **Malachi Fields** returned to practice.

— Ryan Dunleavy

Harbaugh: Cambre’s circus catches have ‘our attention’

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — Dalen Cambre used to jump over the couch in his childhood home to practice circus catches.

Maybe that explains the unexplainable: How does a receiver who had 10 career catches in six college seasons at Louisiana and zero as an undrafted rookie last season lead the Giants in how’d-he-do-that moments during training camp?

“You have to envision yourself making those plays whenever you are not practicing,” Cambre said. “I go crazy sitting on the couch thinking, ‘What if I do this? What if I do this?’ Whenever I go to a workout, whether it be the offseason, on my own or practice, and you have that opportunity, I’ve already thought about it, so you are going out there like, ‘I already did this in my mind, I can do this in real life.’ ”

The Giants outbid the Panthers after the 2025 draft to sign Cambre as a potential special-teamer with experience as a gunner, holder, emergency kicker and emergency punter. He spent most of last season on the practice squad, squeezing in 105 snaps (16 on offense) across seven games.

But never was Cambre expected to be a factor in the receiver rotation until he started leaping and diving for tipped passes, underthrown passes and overthrown passes. Maybe it is easier than his offseason workouts of catching tennis balls with two eyes closed or one eye closed and one hand behind his back.

“Whenever a football is coming from way down the field, you have tons of time to move your body and ways to get position to catch the ball,” Cambre said. “You’ve repped the hard thing, so it looks and feels easier.”

Cambre thought about a post-college life in coaching. Instead, he’s impressing a Hall of Fame-caliber coach.

“I see him make a circus catch every single day,” John Harbaugh said. “And not just that, he’s doing all the other things. I think he’s making a move. He’s got our attention.”

It would have been easy for Cambre to get lost in the shuffle of a coaching change, but Harbaugh believes in a meritocracy. And Harbaugh’s background is special teams.

“Harbaugh says you have to make the most of your opportunity, and I had to show him who I was even though I was getting limited reps as a rookie — because that’s real unless you are a top three-round pick,” Cambre said. “I learned as a rookie that every day in the NFL is a tryout. You take one off day and you know what happens.”

The people who know Cambre best — the teammates who had more catches at Louisiana — are not surprised to see him beating the odds. He epitomizes his friend group’s “Black Flag Mentality,” which is a pirate-originated motto for “finding a way through.”

ABOUT TIME!

Trade-gutted Amazin's secure first series sweep since May

CLEVE' THE PARK: The Mets' Francisco Lindor tracks the flight of his three-run home run during the seventh inning of Thursday's emphatic victory in Cleveland, which clinched the team's third series sweep this year. AP

By MIKE PUMA

METS	**13**	**Boxscore Page 42**
GUARDIANS	**6**	

CLEVELAND — All it took was a trade deadline overhaul to get the Mets on track.

Whether it was balls exploding beyond the fence or unproven relievers emerging, the Mets had their act together for three straight days, which is saying a lot for a team that hadn't swept a series since May.

This three-game sweep was completed Thursday with a 13-6 victory over the Guardians. The sweep was only the third by the Mets this season.

For a third straight day, the Mets hit three homers. Marcus Semien, Luis Torrens and Francisco Lindor compiled the latest barrage to lead an 18-hit attack. The Mets averaged 8.3 runs in the three games.

It followed Monday's deadline purge, in which Huascar Brazobán, Brooks Raley, Luke Weaver, Clay Holmes and Tyrone Taylor departed in trades. Freddy Peralta and A.J. Minter were traded in the days leading up to the deadline.

"It's a new group of guys, so getting to know everyone is a great step," Carson Benge said. "We have already jelled together quite nice, and losing all those guys hurts, but there is plenty more depth for this organization."

The new arrivals have included Jefry Yan, a fireballing lefty reliever with colorful strikeout celebrations.

"We have got some good energy in the clubhouse right now," Nolan McLean said. "We got to see Jefry throw the other day, and it's pretty special. I think it's just cool to watch guys with that much passion play the game of baseball, and it kind of gets you back to your roots a little bit of just remember why you play and it's just to have fun.

"It's a great blessing to be 25 years old and for me and playing a game that I played when I was 6 or 7 years old, so it's awesome."

Interim manager Andy Green noted the Mets slumped offensively in losing three of four games to the Marlins before the trade deadline.

"We didn't swing the bats well, and so when you come in here guys are swinging the bats and feed off each other and then you add in those debuts and guys just touching their dreams for the first time," Green said. "Everybody wants to be a part of that, no matter how the season has gone."

It was a seesaw outing for McLean, who sandwiched three strong innings around two stinkers. Overall, the right-hander surrendered five earned runs on eight hits with three walks and eight strikeouts over five innings.

McLean slogged through the first inning, allowing two walks and three hits in placing the Mets in a 2-0 hole. Angel Martinez stroked a two-run single with the bases loaded, but McLean escaped further damage by retiring Patrick Bailey for the final out after surrendering two additional singles in the inning.

Semien and Torrens homered in the second to give the Mets a 3-2 lead. Torrens' blast, a two-run shot, was his second in three days.

Benge just missed hitting a homer in a third straight game and settled for an RBI triple in the third that increased the Mets lead to 4-2. Semien hit a sacrifice fly in the inning to boost the lead to 5-2.

Jared Young delivered an RBI single in the fifth that gave the Mets a 6-2 lead.

McLean retired 11 straight batters into the fifth, but Nathaniel Lowe crushed a three-run homer to bring the Guardians to within 6-5.

Lindor's three-run blast in the seventh extended the Mets lead to 9-5. Lindor's homer was his eighth since returning from the injured list June 24.

The Mets padded their lead with four runs in the eighth. Alvarez stroked an RBI double and Young and Torrens each walked with the bases loaded before Bo Bichette singled in the final run.

"That Lindor home run today was huge for us after they scored three in the fifth and got to Nolan a little bit," Green said. "To answer back and get those three runs back, I think, ended the game for us. We still had some things to do, but that was huge for us."

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Triple, 3 hits keep Benge on heater

By MIKE PUMA

CLEVELAND — Carson Benge's bid for a home run in each game of this series fell a few feet short with his shot off the fence in left-center in Thursday's third inning.

But it didn't change the fact the rookie outfielder is on a tear.

That RBI triple was part of a 3-for-6 day for Benge, who helped lead the 13-6 victory over the Guardians.

Benge's three-hit game was his ninth this season, leading the club. Benge homered in victories Tuesday and Wednesday.

"He's doing a good job shooting the ball to all parts of the ballpark right now," interim manager Andy Green said. "Professional at-bats. It's like he's been around for a while now instead of just four months, so it's a good start to a career."

Benge's 112 hits are the third most by a rookie this season, trailing only Detroit's Kevin McGonigle (118) and Colorado's T.J. Rumfield (116).

"See ball, hit ball," Benge said. "It's about that simple."

➤ A day after he was unavailable due to arm fatigue, **Devin Williams** was available to pitch, according to Green. But the closer wasn't needed with the Mets ahead by seven runs in the ninth inning.

➤ The Mets received a second straight scoreless outing from **Nate Lavender** to begin the lefty reliever's major league career. Lavender pitched a scoreless sixth inning with two strikeouts.

➤ **Kodai Senga** had a second straight appearance in a one-inning high-leverage role and fired a scoreless seventh with two strikeouts. Senga hit 100 mph with his fastball.

➤ **Luis Torrens** homered for the second time in three days and finished the series with seven RBIs. It was the highest RBI total for a Mets player in a three-game series this season and most since **Juan Soto** had seven against the Tigers in September last year. All four of Torrens' homers this season have been go-ahead blasts.

➤ The nine homers the Mets hit were their second most in a three-game series this season. The Mets hit 10 homers against the Cubs over three games in June.

More Mets / P. 40

ON DECK: at Pirates

Friday, 6:40 p.m., PIX11, WHSQ (880 AM)

LHP Zac Thornton	**RHP Carmen Mlodzinski**
2026 stats: 2-2, 2.88 ERA	**2026 stats:** 6-3, 3.15 ERA
Career vs. PIT: First start	**Career vs. NYM:** 1-0, 2.00 ERA
Last start: Sat., vs. MIA; 4.2 IP, 3 ER, 2 K	**Last start:** Sat., at CIN; 3 IP, 0 ER, 4 K
PITCH BREAKDOWN	**PITCH BREAKDOWN**
27% Cutter 25% 4-Seamer 15% Sweeper	28% 4-Seamer 27% Splitter 17% Sinker

UP NEXT

SATURDAY: at Pirates, 6:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Robert Stock vs. RHP Bubba Chandler

SUNDAY: at Pirates, 1:35 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
LHP Sean Manaea vs. RHP Jared Jones

INJURY REPORT

■ **Juan Soto** has not begun baseball activities, according to interim manager Andy Green, as he receives treatment for a left calf strain. Soto is expected to miss action into September.

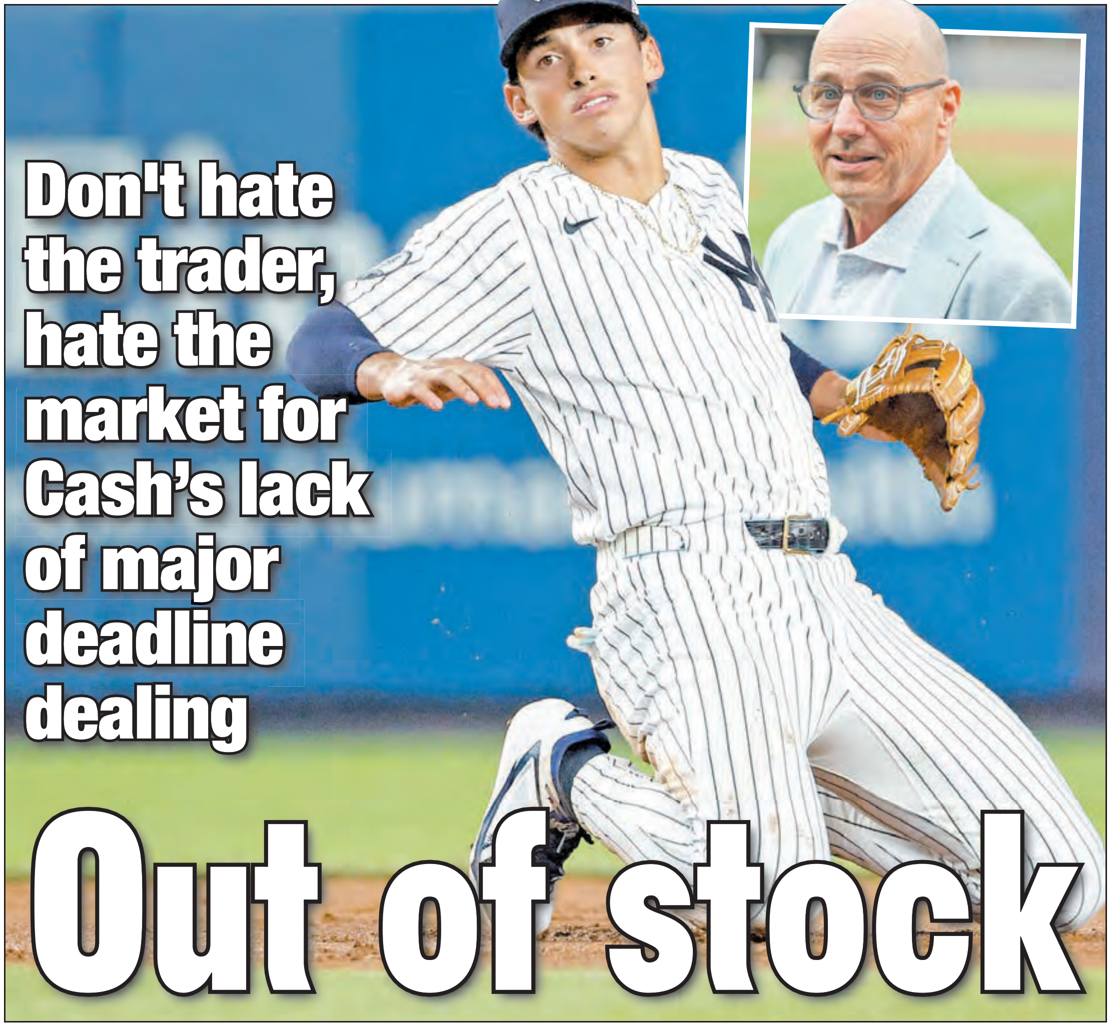
Jon Heyman

INSIDE MLB

jheyman@nypo

Out of stock

Don't hate the trader, hate the market for Cash's lack of major deadline dealing



VALUE PROPOSITION: Brian Cashman (inset) and the Yankees took a lot of flak for failing to address a number of their needs at the trade deadline, but in a seller's market, the cost to make a move — perhaps an MLB-ready prospect like George Lombard Jr. — may have been too high. Jason Szenes; Getty Images

THE YANKEES didn't make the winners list here because they failed to fill their needs. But did they do the best they could under uniquely terrible circumstances? Maybe so.

Sure, you can wonder whether Yankees GM Brian Cashman and Co. are slightly cautious based on their amazing, nearly three-decade history of pain-free deadlines (more on that below). But the real issue here was surely player availability — yep, there was a distinct lack of difference-makers available who fit the Yankees and actually got moved.

The Yankees called on all but ended up filling only one obvious need with their logical trade for righty-hitting Heliot Ramos. In a much bigger deal, they also acquired lefty-hitting, slugging first baseman Luis García Jr., and while he's close to Ben Rice's statistical twin, it was still necessary to improve a lineup in a deep funk since Aaron Judge hit the injured list two months ago, even with yet another lefty.

In an extreme seller's market, the Yankees most needed a catcher, right-handed hitting and bullpen help, which turned out to be exactly the three weakest markets in a generally sorry overall market. And if that wasn't bad enough, almost all sellers with stars remained laser-focused on George Lombard Jr., the top Yankees prospect and defensive whiz about to be summoned to solve the team's fourth-biggest need — shortstop. He was going nowhere!

Most star-level discussions they pursued went nowhere. But the Yankees did engage the Orioles in back-and-forth talks regarding standout catcher Adley Rutschman, who went instead to the rival, win-a-day Red Sox for a five-player package headed by top pitching prospect Anthony Eyanson.

The Orioles were a rare team dangling a star that eventually didn't insist on Lombard (after first inquiring about him). But neither the Yankees nor others involved (Rays, Rangers and Padres) understandably were going to top Boston's haul for an oft-injured All-Star catcher who's yet to reach his No. 1 overall draft promise.

Cashman gave up a nice four-player package for García but has gone nearly 30 years without ever having a PCA moment. The Yankees were once famous for early trading mistakes, from Jay Buhner to Doug Drabek to Willie McGee. But Cashman is some combo of wise and cautious, enabling Judge, Rice, Cam Schlittler and more greats to remain Yankees. Of course, some might suggest now that he was overprotective of Jasson Domínguez, Anthony Volpe and a couple of others.

"I feel like we're aggressive," Cashman told The Post. "I feel like we'll give to get. It's tough to find matches."

A bullpen piece might have been nice. But fairly, the real issue here was the lack of supply among noticeably few sellers.

The Yankees sought brilliant closer Mason Miller, but the Padres ultimately kept him and setup man Adrian Morejon. While the Yankees and Padres discussed Morejon scenarios, the Padres made clear that for Miller, the Yankees (and anyone else) had to be open to moving just about anyone. Specifically, the Yankees understood that any Miller deal almost definitely had to include Lombard. In any case, the Miller talks went nowhere, and the Padres eventually became as big a buyer as the Yankees.

The Yankees seemingly had slightly longer discussions about the biggest available star, two-time Cy Young winner Tarik Skubal, even though starting pitching is their strength. The Tigers at one point mentioned a four-player combo of big leaguers and prospects but never made that or any offer and were apparently focused on the prospect-rich Dodgers.

The Yankees called on Rockies slugging catcher Hunter Goodman, who, like Miller, has three years of team control left. But Colorado asked for packages so big they never expected any of the multiple interested teams to agree to it. For the Yankees, word is it also included Lombard.

The catcher market narrowed fast. The Yankees checked on Minnesota's Ryan Jeffers, but the Twins became surprise buyers. They also called on Cincinnati's Tyler Stephenson, who also stayed put after talks into the final hours involving two teams failed to result in a deal.

Carson Kelly was never available despite reports. And the Mets, intent on winning in 2027, set what teams said was a high bar that was never met on Francisco Alvarez and Luis Torrens.

The bullpen market was even thinner. Still, it would have been nice to add Tyler Wells, Ryan Zeferjahn or Antonio Senzatela. Ex-Yankee Luke Weaver apparently wasn't a serious consideration due to his $11 million salary since the Yankees are at the top-tier 110 percent tax level.

They called on all, and in some cases (Zeferjahn and Wells), the trading teams liked matches elsewhere better. At the very least, the Yankees would have to overpay severely, which isn't their usual style.

In the end, Cashman took hits (including here) for failing to fill every need. But they did significantly improve. Will it be good enough? Perhaps.

Cashman seems satisfied. He said, "I'm comfortable with what we did and I'm comfortable with saying no to what we could have done."

Comfortable in Texas, deGrom wasn't seeking Brave new world

IT WAS **Jacob deGrom**'s prerogative to turn down a potential trade to the Braves, but it surprised some folks, as deGrom gave up a chance to join the first-place team he followed as a kid and move closer to his Florida home.

We will never know what was behind deGrom's decision, but it's fair to assume he's comfortable in Texas, which, thanks to the ultra-weak American League, is currently in wild-card position. He said he wants to win in Texas, but we'll never know how heavily (if at all) comfort, taxes (Texas has no state tax) or anything else factored in.

The Braves went into the deadline targeting **Tarik Skubal** and deGrom, believing another top-of-the-rotation starter to pair with future Hall of Famer **Chris Sale** could enhance their World Series chances. They never got close on Skubal.

The Rangers also took calls on **Nathan Eovaldi** from the Phillies and others, and on **MacKenzie Gore** too. They were never seen as a real seller, though, as folks figured they were seeking financial flexibility to pursue bigger needs.

For deGrom, word is they were talking about controllable, big league-ready pitching from the Braves.

➤ The Brewers made a decent run at Skubal, offering top infield prospect **Luis Peña** and two other big prospects, according to **Adam McCalvy** of MLB.com.

➤ The Padres called on **Rafael Devers**. But that was always a long shot.

WORRIED STICK

Punchless lineup continues to cost Yankees games in standings

By ZACH BRAZILLER

For weeks, the Yankees have waited.

They have waited for the trade deadline.

They have waited for their injured stars to return.

They have waited for their popgun lineup to come to life.

They are still waiting, even with general manager Brian Cashman adding two bats — Luis García Jr. and Heliot Ramos — through trades and promoting top prospect George Lombard Jr.

The lineup isn't getting any better, and the teams ahead of them and behind them keep winning.

This punchless lineup is threatening to derail a promising season, as the Yankees now sit 4 ½ games behind the Rays atop the AL East and even in the loss column with the ridiculously red-hot Red Sox in second place.

Since losing Aaron Judge to a fractured rib May 31, the Yankees are 28-28. In that span, they are 27th in OPS (.669), 30th in batting average (.219) and 30th in on-base percentage (.283). They are averaging 3.9 runs in that span, after producing 5.2 before Judge suffered the injury, and only 3.1 in 18 games since the All-Star break. Eleven times in that stretch, the Yankees managed two runs or fewer. That they are somehow still 10-9 since the break speaks to how strong the pitching is, particularly now that Gerrit Cole and Max Fried have returned to the rotation.

The numbers with runners in scoring position since Judge left the lineup are particularly gruesome. They are batting .199 (29th), have an on-base percentage of .274 (30th), a slugging percentage of .355 (29th) and an OPS of .629 (30th).

"We got to come through in those situations," manager Aaron Boone said after the Yankees went 0-for-10 with runners in scoring position in a 3-1 loss to the Cardinals on Wednesday.

It obviously hasn't helped that Giancarlo Stanton (calf strains) has been out since April 24, or that Cody Bellinger went on the injured list July 26 with a hamstring strain.

It also speaks to the poor performance of regulars who were counted on to be key pieces, from center fielder Trent Grisham to second baseman Jazz Chisholm Jr. to catcher Austin Wells.

Even Ben Rice, an All-Star for the first time, has badly slumped. The first baseman is 2-for-29 with no homers, 11 strikeouts and a .374 OPS in his past nine games and has a .563 OPS since the All-Star Break. Paul Goldschmidt, a major bright spot in the first half, is 11-for-57 with one home run, 16 strikeouts and a .551 OPS in his past 18 games.

The good news: Judge was cleared Wednesday to begin light activity — running and upper-body work in the weight room. However, the rib hasn't completely healed and another MRI will be needed before he can advance to hitting and throwing. Stanton and Bellinger are both working their way back, although it would be premature to say either player is close.

It means the Yankees will have to keep waiting, and hope García, Ramos and Lombard can jump-start this anemic group. Until the injured players get healthy, there is no more help on the way. The trade deadline has passed. The Rays and Red Sox keep winning and the dreadful Yankees lineup continues to cost them games in the standings.

It is not quite the Mets slide of a year ago, when they went from the team with the best record in the sport in mid-June to out of the playoffs completely. Pitching has enabled the Yankees to somewhat tread water, and missing the playoffs feels like a long shot. However, you can't win if you can't score, and the Yankees haven't been doing enough of either of late.

zbraziller@nypost.com

Bats not good!

The Yankees have been struggling offensively since Aaron Judge's injury at the end of May, but certain players have been particularly woeful lately. Here's a look:

TRENT GRISHAM
8-for-71 (.113), 2 HRs, .414 OPS in past 20 games

PAUL GOLDSCHMIDT
11-for-57 (.193), one HR, 16 Ks, .551 OPS in past 18 games

JAZZ CHISHOLM JR.
6-for-44 (.136), one homer, 19 Ks, .452 OPS in past 12 games

BEN RICE
2-for-29 (.069), no homers, 11 Ks, .374 OPS in past nine games

SPENCER JONES
0-for-17 (.000), 5 Ks
in four games

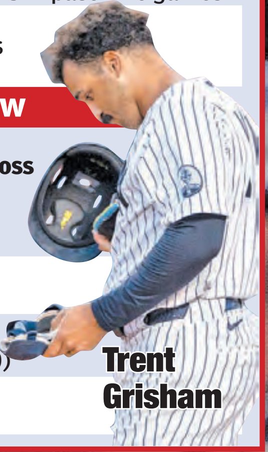
All together now

At look at how the Yankees rank across MLB since June 1 — their first day without Judge:

27th
OPS (.669)

30th
batting average (.219)

30th
OBP (.283)



Jason Szenes; Corey Sipkin

SIMPLY OFFENSIVE: Pitching has not been a problem for the Yankees this season, but their offense — especially since Aaron Judge landed on the injured list — has been. In 56 games without their captain, Jazz Chisholm Jr. (right), Spencer Jones (inset), Paul Goldschmidt (left) and the Bombers have gone 28-28 and hit .219 with a .669 OPS. Jason Szenes; Robert Sabo; Corey Sipkin

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

HELPING HAND: With Ryan Weathers or Will Warren likely moving to the bullpen when Carlos Rodón returns, former starter Paul Blackburn (above) will be an invaluable resource to help them transition.
Jason Szenes

Blackburn invaluable to Bombers bullpen

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Like everyone else, Paul Blackburn was following the Yankees' moves at the trade deadline. He heard the noise about them potentially adding arms to the bullpen.

It didn't happen.

"The trade deadline is always a weird time. As players, you do what you need to do. I feel like, as a whole down there, we've all thrown the ball really well," the veteran right-hander, who has emerged as a key piece to the bullpen, told The Post. "We feed off each other, we give each other a lot of confidence down there, just a really tight group. For us, it's about taking the ball and getting outs."

"I think [the front office is] confident in our group and we're all confident in our group to go out and get the job done."

General manager Brian Cashman was active at the deadline, but only added offensive help in Heliot Ramos from the Giants and Luis García Jr. from the Nationals. There were no additions made to the bullpen, although there will be reinforcements of some kind at some point.

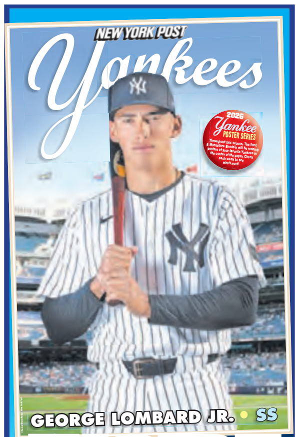
The expectation is that when Clarke Schmidt returns from Tommy John surgery, it will be as a reliever. And once Carlos Rodón is back from the injured list — he makes his first rehabilitation start Saturday — either Ryan Weathers or Will Warren will be moved to the pen.

For now, the onus is on the current group. That is led by closer David Bednar and surprising success stories Brent Headrick and Blackburn, along with up-and-down righty Fernando Cruz. The Yankees pen has the best ERA in the sport at 3.33, and over the last 55 games, that number is down to 2.56.

Blackburn could turn out to be pretty important, not only because of how well he has pitched — he has a 2.02 ERA in 41 games — but because of his experience making the transition. He can be a sounding board for the starters making the change. When he made the move last year, Luke Weaver helped him significantly.

"There is a little bit of challenge there, just going through it," he said. "It's still pitching, but it is different, as far as mentality and your day-to-day, things like that.

"I feel like in the game now you see a lot of starters going to the pen and pen guys going back to starting. There's a lot of guys that have gone through it, that can help each other out."



INSIDE
GEORGE LOMBARD JR. POSTER!
PAGES 30-31

Montefiore Einstein
Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

Two legendary New York institutions. One team.
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INJURY REPORT

- **Carlos Rodón** will begin a minor league rehabilitation assignment Saturday, likely with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. The left-hander has been out since June 28 due to left elbow inflammation.
- Right-hander **Clarke Schmidt** is expected to throw a bullpen session this weekend after his live batting practice was cut short Tuesday due to forearm cramping.

ON DECK

vs. Braves

7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
(660 AM, 101.9 FM)

LHP Max Fried

2026 stats:
4-3, 3.12 ERA

Career vs. ATL:
First start

Last start:
Sat., at CHC;
5.1 IP, 1 ER, 7 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

23%	21%	18%
Cutter	Sinker	4-Seamer

RHP Tyler Mahle

2026 stats:
3-9, 5.13 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
0-2, 4.32 ERA

Last start:
Sat., at SDP
5.2 IP, 5 ER, 9 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

48%	25%	17%
4-Seamer	Splitter	Cutter

UP NEXT

SATURDAY: 3:05 p.m.,
YES, WFAN
RHP Gerrit Cole
vs. LHP Chris Sale

SUNDAY: 1:35 p.m.,
YES, WFAN
RHP Cam Schlittler
vs. RHP Grant Holmes

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STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

“The Chelsea Detective” (Acorn TV) has always been a reliably quirky mystery series that takes its time to give fans glimpses into the lives of the detectives. The fourth season premiere gives viewers the treat of a mystery that has logic and doesn’t take undocumented leaps. **OUR CALL: STREAM IT**

AcornTV

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

WHAT TO WATCH

Three years after its Season 3 finale aired, leaving fans craving more, Apple TV’s Emmy-winning comedy “**Ted Lasso”** is back in the game for Season 4. The season premiere took viewers to Ted’s (Jason Sudeikis) hometown, Kansas City, where Rebecca (Hannah Waddingham), Keeley (Juno Temple), and Higgins (Jeremy Swift) asked him to return to Richmond and coach the new women’s team.

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

IF LOOKS COULD KILL

‘The Shards’ is a hoot of a horror comedy

Left: Hayes Warner and Igby Rigney in “The Shards.” Below: Rigney and Kaia Gerber.

FX

By MEGHAN O’KEEFE

So much of author and iconoclast Bret Easton Ellis’s brand is devoted to aesthetic beauty and how it can mask a festering, often violent, rot beneath. FX’s **“The Shards”** is the latest manifestation of this: a glossy, glamorous Ryan Murphy joint following a group of the most deliriously beautiful teens as they emotionally torture one another and (maybe) actually physically torture and murder their way around 1981 Los Angeles.

“The Shards” is based on Ellis’s novel of the same name, a fictionalized memoir that imagines the author recounting his senior year attending Los Angeles’s iconic prep school Buckley Academy with a savage twist. What if young Bret (Igby Rigney) wasn’t just a wealthy teenaged wannabe writer trying to stifle his homosexuality in a much less forgiving world? What if he and his friends actually had a serial killer in their midst?

As Bret explains in his near omnipresent voiceover, growing up in the late ‘70s and ‘80s meant that you had to constantly worry about being slaughtered by a serial killer. The specific maniac hunting Bret and his peers is called The Trawler. He stalks his young, wealthy, and beautiful prey, stealing their pets and interrupting their nights with creepy, breathy phone calls. After he abducts them, the real fun begins. First there’s torture, then there’s death, and finally he displays their mutilated corpses someplace public that’s usually considered safe. Oh, and Bret thinks it’s obvious that the new kid in class — the magnetic Robert Mallory (Homer Gere) — is The Trawler.

“The Shards” opens with Bret recounting the first time he saw Robert Mallory, a full year before the handsome young man would arrive at Buckley. Both teens were at a morning showing of “The Shining” and Bret was absolutely transfixed by Robert’s raw energy. Bret believed the two shared a moment, but when he asks Robert point blank about **“The Shining”** over lunch on the first day of school, the recent transplant denies ever having seen the Kubrick classic. This lie becomes the original sin that proves Robert Mallory isn’t just untrustworthy, but dangerously evil.

As Bret begins accumulating clues to bolster his theory, Robert infiltrates his long-time clique — much to our hero’s horror. Class president and golden girl Susan Reynolds (Kaia Gerber) continually champions Robert’s cause. She claims it’s to be kind, but even her long-time boyfriend, sweet, dumb, cute jock Thom Wright (Graham Campbell), begins to notice how Susan and Robert are drawn to one another.

Elsewhere, Bret’s girlfriend, the blonde and bratty Debbie Schaffer (Hayes Warner), is too concerned with riding her thoroughbred horse and snorting cocaine to even notice her classmates are disappearing and winding up dead. Bret stays with Debbie to keep up the appearances of being straight and to launch his own professional ambitions. He hopes that her handsy film producer father Terry (Wes Bentley) will adapt the novel he’s writing into a feature film. (That novel will one day be **“Less Than Zero.”**)

At first glance, “The Shards” appears to be operating firmly in the horror genre. There are copious homages to classic slasher flicks, Stephen King shout-outs, and, yes, well-manufactured jump scares. However, as with all of Ellis’s works, appearances can be deceiving. “The Shards” works best when it’s in full dark comedy mode. Episode 5 is the single funniest episode of television I’ve seen since the equally deliciously bleak **“Widow’s Bay”** ended last spring. Written and directed by Murphy, it follows the kids as they go on a live dance competition show. The levels of camp had me absolutely howling.

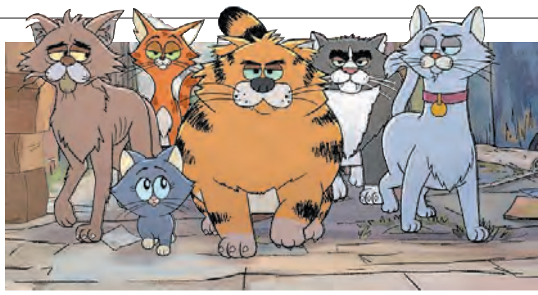
Much has been made of the fact that two of the stars of “The Shards,” Kaia Gerber and Homer Gere, are nepo-babies whose famous parents were briefly married in the early ‘90s. Gerber’s eerie resemblance to her mother, supermodel Cindy Crawford, definitely helps solidify Susan as the quintessential ‘80s dream girl, and Gere is gifted a fun nod to his father’s big breakout film, **“American Gigolo.”** Yet, the big breakouts for me were Rigney, Warner, and supporting player Jordan Roth. Rigney somehow manages to make Bret feel not only like an idealized version of the real man, but a wholly new character; a likable, yet untrustworthy, one at that. Warner’s Debbie is somehow simultaneously the most hilariously vapid rich girl I’ve ever seen on screen and a heartbreaking portrait of a young woman desperate for love. A huge feat, considering this is the musician’s acting debut. Finally, Roth, the seven-time Tony-winning theater producer, devours the scenery with his eccentric turn as the Schaffer’s major domo, Steven.

If “The Shards” has a fault, it’s that — like young Bret himself — it’s a tad bit overambitious. The series tries to juggle every genre known to man, from murder mystery to movie musical, coming-of-age drama to sly satire. A lot of it works, thanks in huge part to its winsome cast and Murphy’s clearly focused attention. However, when “The Shards” attempts bigger swings later in its nine-episode-long run, it falters. The final episode veers massively from Ellis’s novel, in an obvious bid to win a second season order. Does it work creatively? *Sort of?* Do we want to watch “The Shards” Season 2? Absolutely!

Peacock

TRENDING NOW

After becoming Peacock’s #1 scripted series of all time, **“The Five Star Weekend”** has landed a second season at the streamer. We’re certainly giving Peacock five stars for this exciting renewal announcement!



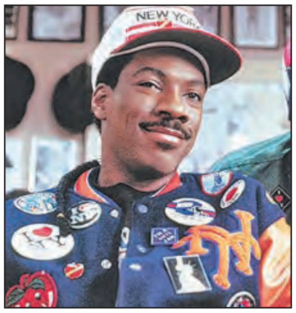
WHAT’S NEW

ON NETFLIX
“**Alley Cats**,” an adult animated comedy (left).

ON USA
“**Anna Pigeon**,” a new crime drama series.

Best Bets

What's on Tonight



COMEDY

Coming to America: 8:20 p.m. on FREFRM. Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall. An African prince travels to N.Y. and goes undercover to find a wife.

BIOGRAPHY

Selena: 10:30 p.m. on VH1. Jennifer Lopez, Edward James Olmos. The true story of Selena, a Texas-born Tejana singer.

DRAMA

Donnie Brasco: 11 p.m. on AMC. Al Pacino, Johnny Depp. An undercover agent infiltrates the mob and finds himself identifying more with the Mafia life.

Friday August 7, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Evening News	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	Big Brother		Sheriff Country: Death & Taxes (R)		Boston Blue: L'dor Vador (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Comics (R)
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	(7:15) New York Live	Access Hollywood	America's Got Talent: Judges' Callbacks 1 (R)				Dateline NBC		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5 WNYW	5	5	5	Politics Unusual	Extra	TMZ	MasterChef: Global Feed (R)		(9:02) Nation's Dumbest: Feud for Thought (R)		The 10 O'Clock News		Street Soldiers	
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!: Wildcard (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	Celebrity Jeopardy! All Stars: Semifinal #2 (R)		20/20: Investigative journalists report on various news stories from around the world.				News	(11:35) Kimmel Live (R)
9 WWOR	9	9	9	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The News on My 9	Politics Unusual	Chicago Fire: The Beating Heart		The 10 O'Clock News	Family Feud (R)	Chicago Fire: Short and Fat	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Pittsburgh Pirates from PNC Park. Live.						New York Nightcap	PIX11 News at Ten		New York Nightcap	Seinfeld: The Ticket
13 WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		Washington Week	Firing Line	American Experience: Chasing the Moon (R)				Amanpour and Company	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Inspector George Gently: Through Mill			The Brokenwood Mysteries			(10:03) Astrid: Guilty (R)		BBC News	The Day
25 WNYE	25	22	25	The Civil	Made In New York Talks			Papa Ray's	Inside Pow	Artists Den Reprise		Short Film	NYU Journ	Cinema
31 WPXN	31	3	531	S.W.A.T.	Pregame	WNBA Basketball Live.				WNBA Basketball Live.				Postgame
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisi	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tan Cerca de Ti, Nace el		Guardián de mi Vida		Corazon de Oro		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Operación Triunfo				El Señor de los Cielos		Lejos de Ti		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Perfect (R)	Last Man	Last Man	News 8pm		48 Hours		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.
AMC	54	43	231	Casino (1995, Crime) Robert De Niro. R			GoodFellas (1990, Crime) Robert De Niro. R ★★★★						Donnie Brasco (1997) R	
BBCAM	71	101	189	Law & Ordr	Law & Order: Dazzled		Law & Order: Foul Play		Law & Order		Law & Order: Oxymoron		Law & Order: Patriot	
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Roll Bounce (2005, Comedy) Bow Wow, Chi McBride. ★½					Honey (2003, Drama) Jessica Alba. PG-13 ★★					Martin
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	Salt Lake City (R)		Salt Lake City (R)		Salt Lake City (R)		Salt Lake City (R)		Salt Lake City (R)	
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) Lead	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COMEDY	45	50	190	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office: Scott's Tots		The Office	The Office	The Hangover (2009) R	
DISC	66	27	120	Dead Catch	Deadliest Catch (R)		Deadliest Catch		Eye of Storm (R)		Eye of Storm (R)		Eye of Storm (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	(7:15) Bluey: Family Trip		Cinderella (2015, Fantasy) Lily James. PG ★★★½				ZOMBIES	Kiff	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Anna Pigeon		Save the Last Dance ★★½	
ESPN	28	36	70	Little League Softball: Game 18 Live.			Banana Ball: Bananas vs. Loco Beach Coconuts				Fighters League: PFL Charlotte (Main Card) Live.			
ESPN2	29	35	74	Popdarts	Pop-A-Shot Live.		Slippery Stairs		Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (2004) PG-13 ★★★				Juggling Replay.	
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Wall Street	Roundtable	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Too Hot	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FREE	38	49	199	(6:20) The Haunted Mansion (2003) ★★			(8:20) Coming to America (1988, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall. R ★★★						The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83	Indycar	ARCA Racing: JR & Co. 150: from Iowa Speedway.				ALL IN	Travis	CONCACAF U-20 Champ.: Semifinal: W21 vs W22			
FX	10	40	53	Magic Mike	Magic Mike XXL (2015, Drama) Channing Tatum. R ★★½					The Proposal (2009, Comedy) Sandra Bullock. PG-13 ★★★				
HALL		191	240	(6:00) A Bride for Christmas (2012) ★★★			Christmas by Starlight (2020) Kimberley Sustad. ★★★				Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	Zillow Wild	My Rental	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	UnXplained	The UnXplained (R)		The UnXplained (R)		The UnXplained		(10:03) Mysteries		(11:05) Mysteries (R)	
ID	23	171	123	Evil Here	Evil Lives Here		Evil Lives Here		The Secrets We Bury				Your Worst Nightmare	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Baltimore		NCIS: Swan Song		NCIS: Pyramid		NCIS: Nature of the		(11:03) NCIS: Restless	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Golden	Golden	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	(5:00) NHL	MSG PM	MSG PM	Club 30		NHL Hockey				MSG PM	MSG PM
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(6:00) To Be Announced: Program information is currently unavailable.										
MSNOW	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The Weeknight		All in with Chris Hayes		The Briefing Jen Psaki		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	You're Cordially Invited (2025, Comedy) Will Ferrell. R					Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates (2016, Comedy) Zac Efron. R				
NATGEO	65	162	121	(6:00) Ibiza	Ibiza Narcos (R)		Ibiza Narcos (R)		Liverpool Narcos: Heroin		Liverpool Narcos (R)		Liverpool Narcos (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	TMNT	PAW Patrol: The Movie (2021) Iain Armitage. G ★★½				Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) Belle	Belle Collective		Belle Collective		A Ring On It: Cheathab		Heart & Hustle: Houston		Belle Collective	
PARMT	36	56	54	(6:00) Top Gun: Maverick (2022, Action) Tom Cruise. PG-13 ★★★½					(9:05) Top Gun: Maverick (2022, Action) Tom Cruise, Jennifer Connelly. ★★★½					
SNY	26	60	77	Jets Nation	Yeah ...	Broadway Boxing: Broadway Boxing 2401				Post Game	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	Transformers: Age of Extinction (2014, Action) Mark Wahlberg. PG-13 ★★½							Anna Pigeon		The Ark (R)	
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (2017) PG-13 ★★★				(10:20) Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (2017) ★★★			
TCM	82	41	230	(6:45) Dressed to Kill (1946, Mystery)			The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938) Errol Flynn. NR				The Dawn Patrol (1938, Action) Errol Flynn. NR ★★½			
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day Fiancé (R)		90 Day Fiancé: More to Love: Do I Stay or Do I Go?				90 Day	90 Day: Last (R)		90 Day (R)
TNT	3	37	51	(5:45) The Dark Knight (2008, Action) Christian Bale. PG-13 ★★★★					The Dark Knight Rises (2012, Action) Christian Bale. PG-13 ★★★★					
TVLAND	85	34	241	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	Chicago PD	Chicago P.D.: More		WWE Friday Night SmackDown Live.				Anna Pigeon		(11:04) Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	19	52	217	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Baby Boy (2001, Drama) Tyrese Gibson. R ★★½					Selena (1997, Drama) Jennifer Lopez.		
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) Bridesmaids (2011, Comedy) Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph. R					Age Inappropriate		Age Inappropriate		Bridesmaids (2011) R ★★★	
YES	53	89	76	Pregame	MLB Baseball: Atlanta Braves at New York Yankees from Yankee Stadium. Live.						Postgame	YanksExtra	Talkin'	BK Show
HBO	511	301	400	Monsters	(7:05) Green Lantern (2011, Action) Ryan Reynolds.				Life, Larry	Life Larry	(10:10) Real Time with		Life Larry	Real Time
MAX	531	371	420	(6:23) Tomb Raider (2018, Action) Alicia Vikander. ★★★				(8:21) Contagion (2011, Action) ★★½			(10:08) Atomic Blonde (2017, Action) Charlize Theron.			
MGM Plus	595		395	Supernova (2000) Angela Bassett. ★★			Inception (2010, Science Fiction) Leonardo DiCaprio. PG-13 ★★★★					War of the Worlds (2005) Tom Cruise.		
PARSHO	551	321	365	Time (2009)	Forrest Gump (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks. PG-13 ★★★★					You're Dating a Narcissist (2026)			Baby Driver (2017) R ★★★½	

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YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN

GENO LOOKS LIKE DIFFERENT QB IN HIS 2ND STINT WITH JETS / CANNIZZARO: PAGES 50-51

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

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Impotent bats threatening to derail Bombers' season

YANKS FOR NOTHIN'!

Ben Rice, Jazz Chisholm Jr. (inset) and the entire Yankees lineup have come up small since Aaron Judge went down. With the Rays pulling away with the division and the red-hot Red Sox right on their heels, the Bombers need to find some pop soon to be on solid ground come playoff time. **P. 56-57**

SCHEME MACHINE

IF DART CAN ADAPT, HE CAN TAKE HUGE STEP

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